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# Kentucky

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Kentucky. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology in and the contents and uses of genealogical records. Also see the *Virginia Research Outline* (31083) for additional information about Kentucky before 1776.

## RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

The Family History Library has many of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings include census, court, land, probate, taxation, and vital records. The library has county records from most Kentucky counties.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, microfiche, compact disc (CD), and computer numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for the Family History Library. The numbers may be used to locate materials in the Family History Library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.

The computer number can be used if you have access to the Family History Library Catalog on computer. The Computer Number Search is the fastest way to find a source in the catalog.

The Internet is growing in importance to genealogists. Sources found on the Internet are cited in this outline with their universal resource locator (URL) address.

## FAMILYSEARCH™

***FamilySearch™ at Family History Centers.*** FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing millions of names. It is a good place to begin your family history research. Some of the records come from compiled sources, and some have been extracted from original sources. The Family History Library and many Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch. A few FamilySearch resource files such as the U.S. Social Security Death Index and U.S. Military Index are found on the Family History Library and Family History Center edition of FamilySearch but not on the FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service.

Family History Library and Family History Center computers with FamilySearch do not have access to Internet online services, networks, or bulletin boards. Those services are available at many public and college libraries and at private locations. Limited access to the Internet is available on a few computers in the Automated Resource Center in the Family History Library.

***FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service.*** [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) allows you to preserve your genealogy, order Family History Library publications, learn research strategies, and look for information about your ancestors in the following resources:

***Ancestral File.*** A file of over 35 million names organized into families and pedigrees

***International Genealogical Index.*** An index of over 360 million names extracted from vital records primarily from the British Isles, North America, and northern Europe

***Family History Library Catalog.*** A description and classification of over two million microfilm reels and hundreds of thousands of genealogical books. You can search the catalog by family name, locality, author, book, or film number.

***SourceGuide.*** A collection of over 150 "how-to" research outlines for states, nations, or genealogy topics; an extensive glossary of word meanings; and a catalog helper

***Family History Centers.*** Lists of locations where you can order the microfilms described in the Family History Library Catalog and SourceGuide

***Web Sites.*** Have thousands of links to Internet sites related to family history. Each search will give you a list of useful links.

***Collaboration Lists.*** Lists that link you to user created mailing lists of researchers interested in similar genealogical topics

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## **FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG**

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The Family History Library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog at the library, at each local Family History Center, and on the Internet at:

[www.familysearch.org/Search/searchcatalog.  
asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Search/searchcatalog.asp).

To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog for:

- The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:

**UNITED STATES - CENSUS  
KENTUCKY - LAND AND PROPERTY  
KENTUCKY, FAYETTE - VITAL RECORDS  
KENTUCKY, FAYETTE, LEXINGTON -  
COURT RECORDS**

- The *record type* you want to search, such as:

**UNITED STATES - CENSUS  
KENTUCKY - LAND AND PROPERTY  
KENTUCKY, FAYETTE - VITAL  
RECORDS  
KENTUCKY, FAYETTE, LEXINGTON -  
COURT RECORDS**

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.



## RECORD SELECTION TABLE: KENTUCKY

This table can help you decide which records to search. It is most helpful for post-1850 research.

1. In column 1 select a research goal.
2. In column 2 find the types of records most likely to have the information you need.
3. In column 3 find additional record types that may be useful.
4. Then look in the section of this outline that corresponds to the record type you chose. It explains what the records might tell you, how to search them, and how to find the records in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog. Some records are not at the library.

**Note:** Records of previous research (genealogies, biographies, histories, periodicals, and societies) are useful for most goals but are not listed unless they are *especially* helpful.

1. If you need	2. Look first in	3. Then search
Adoptions	Court Records, Vital Records, Guardianship	Probate Records, Church Records, Census
Age	Census, Cemeteries, Obituaries, Vital Records, Military Records	Naturalization and Citizenship, Church Records, Bible Records
Birth date	Vital Records, Obituaries, Cemeteries	Church Records, Bible Records, Military Records, Naturalization and Citizenship
Birthplace	Vital Records, Church Records, Obituaries, Census	Military Records, Naturalization and Citizenship, Cemeteries
Boundaries and origins	Maps, Gazetteers	History
Children	Census, Probate Records, Obituaries, Vital Records, Guardianship	Church Records, Bible Records, Court Records, Land and Property
City or parish of foreign birth	Vital Records, Newspapers, Obituaries, Biography	Naturalization and Citizenship, Emigration and Immigration, Military Records
Country of foreign birth	Census, Naturalization and Citizenship, Vital Records, Obituaries	Biography, History, Emigration and Immigration, Military Records
Death information	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Obituaries, Probate Records, Funeral Homes	Military Records, Church Records, Bible Records, Land and Property
Divorce	Divorce Records, Vital Records, Court Records, Newspapers	Census, Obituaries
Emigration information	Emigration and Immigration, Naturalization and Citizenship, Census, Obituaries	Biography, History, Minorities, Societies
Ethnic background	Native Races, Minorities, Emigration and Immigration, Naturalization and Citizenship	Societies, Church Records, Periodicals, Census
Historical background	History, Periodicals, Gazetteers	Maps, Land and Property

Immigration date	Emigration and Immigration, Naturalization and Citizenship, Census	Court Records, Biography, History
Living relatives	Newspapers, Obituaries, Probate Records, Directories	Court Records, Census, Funeral Homes
Maiden name	Vital Records, Newspapers, Obituaries, Probate Records	Church Records, Military Records, Funeral Homes, Cemeteries
Marriage information	Vital Records, Newspapers, Obituaries, Census, Church Records	Probate Records, Military Records, Divorce Records, Naturalization and Citizenship
Migration information	Emigration and Immigration, Maps, Census, Biography	History, Land and Property, Military Records, Minorities
Naturalization	Naturalization and Citizenship, Census, Voting Registers	Court Records, Biography, History
Occupations	Occupations, Census, Directories	Newspapers, Obituaries, Biography, Emigration and Immigration
Other family members	Census, Newspapers, Obituaries, Probate Records	Vital Records, Church Records, Bible Records, Funeral Homes
Parents	Vital Records, Obituaries, Census, Guardianship	Probate Records, Funeral Homes, Church Records, Bible Records
Physical description	Military Records, Emigration and Immigration, Naturalization and Citizenship	Biography, History
Place-finding aids	Maps, Gazetteers, History	Periodicals, Archives and Libraries
Places of residence	Census, Military Records, Obituaries, Biography	Land and Property, Naturalization and Citizenship, Public Records
Place of residence when you know only the state	Census, Vital Records, Military Records	Naturalization and Citizenship, Taxation
Previous research	Genealogy, Biography, Periodicals, Societies	History, Archives and Libraries
Record-finding aids	Archives and Libraries, Church Records, Periodicals	Societies, For Further Reading
Religion	Church Records, Vital Records, Newspapers, Obituaries, Biography	History, Cemeteries, Funeral Homes
Social activities	Societies, Newspapers, Obituaries, Biography	History, Cemeteries, Directories

## ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Many archives and libraries have maps, gazetteers, and other place-finding aids about Kentucky. They frequently have collections of previous research such as family and local histories and biographies. Many have record-finding aids such as guides to their own collections or inventories of records housed elsewhere in the state. Archives and libraries located near state boundaries usually collect records relating to the adjacent states.

The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections and services useful to genealogical researchers:

### Archives

- Department for Libraries and Archives  
Public Records Division  
300 Coffee Tree Road  
Frankfort, KY  
Telephone: 1-502-564-8300  
Fax: 1-502-564-5773  
Internet: [www.kdla.net](http://www.kdla.net)

The mailing address is:  
P.O. Box 537  
Frankfort, KY 40601-0537

The Department for Libraries and Archives is the central repository for city-, county-, and state-level records. It has two facilities of particular interest to genealogists. The state library has printed materials, and the state archives maintains original Kentucky government records and other historical documents. Many of these repositories' records are being microfilmed, and copies are being sent to the Family History Library. The Department of Libraries and Archives responds to genealogical requests but prefers that requests be sent on a form available on its Internet site or through the mail.

- National Archives-Southeast Region (Atlanta)  
1557 St. Joseph Avenue  
East Point, GA 30344  
Telephone: 1-404-763-7477  
Fax: 1-404-763-7033  
Internet: [www.nara.gov](http://www.nara.gov)  
E-mail: [archives@atlanta.nara.gov](mailto:archives@atlanta.nara.gov)

### Libraries

- Margaret I. King Library-North  
Department of Special Collections and Archives  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, KY 40506-0039  
Telephone: 1-606-257-8611 or 1-606-257-8371  
Fax: 1-606-257-6311  
Internet: [www.uky.edu/libraries/special](http://www.uky.edu/libraries/special)

While the Margaret I. King Library does not specialize in genealogical records, the Department of Special Collections and Archives maintains many items that lend themselves to the study of family and local history. The materials include church records; genealogical collections; historical manuscript collections; the Draper manuscripts, described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline; county and local histories; county, state, and federal records; and a biographical file.

- Kentucky Library  
1 Big Red Way  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, KY 42101  
Telephone: 1-502-745-5083  
Fax: 1-502-745-6264  
Internet:  
[www.wky.edu/www/library/dlsc/ky\\_lib.htm](http://www.wky.edu/www/library/dlsc/ky_lib.htm)  
E-mail: [library.web@wku.edu](mailto:library.web@wku.edu)

The Kentucky Library has significant genealogical records, church histories, and biographical files relating to south central Kentucky.

- Eastern Kentucky Library  
Crabbe Library  
Special Collections and Archives  
Library 126  
Richmond, KY 40475  
Telephone: 1-606-622-1792  
Fax: 1-606-622-1174  
Internet: [www.library.eku.edu/sca/scahome.htm](http://www.library.eku.edu/sca/scahome.htm)  
E-mail: [archive@acs.eku.edu](mailto:archive@acs.eku.edu)

This university library has many records about Kentucky, Virginia, and North Carolina, with an emphasis on Kentucky records.

- Kentucky Room  
Lexington Public Library  
140 East Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40507  
Telephone: 1-606-231-5520  
Internet:  
[www.lexpublib.org/reference/kyroom.html](http://www.lexpublib.org/reference/kyroom.html)



The Kentucky Room of the Lexington Public Library houses many secondary sources on state and local history and genealogy, family histories, census indexes, and some census microfilm. It also has an excellent collection of Lexington newspapers and the *Local History Index*, an extensive index to newspapers. More detailed information on the collection can be found on the library's web site.

- Forrest C. Pogue Special Collections Library  
Murray State University  
Murray, KY 42071  
Telephone: 1-270-762-6152

The Pogue library has records on all areas of Kentucky, with an emphasis on the western portion of the state.

- Kenton County Public Library  
502 Scott St.  
Covington, KY 41011  
Telephone: 1-606-491-7610  
Internet: [www.kenton.lib.ky.us/kyref.html](http://www.kenton.lib.ky.us/kyref.html)  
E-mail: [cking@kenton.lib.ky.us](mailto:cking@kenton.lib.ky.us)

The Kenton County Public Library has extensive statewide, local, and family history materials and in-depth collections for northern Kentucky. It has a local newspaper index for the years 1835 to 1931 and 1984 to the present. This includes an obituary index. The catalog of the Kenton library is available on its web site. You can also access the Kenton County Historical Society from the library's web site.

Historical and genealogical societies play a prominent role in preserving records and promoting research. These organizations may or may not have their own archives. Major Kentucky societies are the Filson Club, Kentucky Genealogical Society, and Kentucky Historical Society. See the "Societies" section of this outline for information on these and other Kentucky societies.

## Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks can serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial online services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers.
- Post queries.
- Send and receive e-mail.
- Search large databases.
- Search computer libraries and online catalogs.
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions.

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Kentucky in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost. Addresses on the Internet change frequently. The following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service [Internet site]. [Salt Lake City]: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 22 March 1999 [cited 6 August 1999]. Available at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). At this site you can access the Family History Library Catalog, Ancestral File, the International Genealogical Index, SourceGuide, lists of Family History Centers, web sites related to family history, and lists of researchers interested in similar genealogical topics. You can also learn about and order Family History Library publications.

Howells, Cyndi. "U.S. - Kentucky - KY." In Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet [Internet site]. Puyallup, Wash.: Cyndi Howells, 6 August 1999 [cited 6 August 1999]. Available at [www.cyndislist.com/ky.html](http://www.cyndislist.com/ky.html). This list has more links to other Kentucky genealogical sites and describes more resources than any other site on the Internet.

"Kentucky USGenWeb." In The USGenWeb Project [Internet site]. N.p., 1999 [cited 6 August 1999]. Available at [www.rootsweb.com/~kygenweb/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~kygenweb/). This is a cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.

"United States Resources: Kentucky." In RootsWeb [Internet site]. N.p., 12 July 1999 [cited 6 August 1999]. Available at [www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/ky.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/ky.html). This list of sites and resources includes a large, regularly updated research coordination list.

Guant, Christine. "Kentucky Resources." In Genealogy Resources on the Internet [Internet site]. N.p., 31 July 1999 [cited 25 October 1999]. Available at <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~cgaunt/kentucky.html>. This site provides links to vital record offices, genealogical and historical societies, queries, mailing lists, county-by-county Internet sites, and gopher sites.

"Kentucky GenExchange." In *Genealogical Exchange & Surname Registry* [Internet site]. N.p., 1996–1999 [cited 20 October 1999]. Available at [www.genexchange.com/ky/index.cfm](http://www.genexchange.com/ky/index.cfm). This site brings searchable data to genealogists, including databases (church, cemetery, census, land, immigration, naturalization, and vital records), directories, historical accounts, mailing lists, queries, local surname researchers, and look-up volunteers.

Cleaveland, Richard. "BBSes for Kentucky." In Richard Cleaveland's *Genealogical Bulletin Board Systems World-wide (GBBS)* [Internet site]. [Washington, D.C.]: National Genealogical Society, 4 May 1998 [cited 20 October 1999]. Available at [www.genealogy.org/~gbbs/gblky.html](http://www.genealogy.org/~gbbs/gblky.html). Look for answers and post queries on the genealogical electronic bulletin boards of this list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline*, "Archives and Libraries" section (30972).

Some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch. These computers do *not* have access to online services, networks, or bulletin boards. You can use these services at many public and college libraries and at private locations.

## BIBLE RECORDS

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Bibles were often given to a bride as a wedding gift, and families recorded information about the immediate family and close relatives in them. Bible records can include birth, marriage, and death dates; parents' and children's names; and spouses' names, including maiden names. Relationships are seldom stated. The age of a person may be given at the time of death. Many families kept Bible records, although some Bibles did not survive. Some Bibles may have been donated to local libraries or societies.

The Kentucky Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collections and the Julia Hoge Spencer Ardery collection contain transcriptions of Bible records. These are described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. Some additional Kentucky Bible transcriptions are found at the national DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and on microfilm at the Family History Library. These are partially indexed in:

E. Kay Kirkham. *An Index to Some of the Family Records of the Southern States: 35,000 Microfilm References from the N.S.D.A.R. Files and Elsewhere*. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1979. (FHL book 973 D22kk vol. 1; fiche 6089183; computer number 32871.) This surname index lists the state and the FHL film number where these Bible records can be found.

Some DAR transcriptions have been indexed and published in:

Daughters of the American Revolution (Kentucky). Records Research Committee. *Kentucky Bible Records from the Files of the Genealogical Records Committee, Kentucky Society, Daughters of the American Revolution*. 6 vols. Lexington, Ky.: KSDAR, 1962–1981. (FHL book 976.9 D2da; computer number 39868.) Each volume is indexed.

Many periodicals publish family data from Bible records. These are referenced in the "Families" section of the *PERiodical Source Index on Microfiche (PERSI)*, described in the "Periodicals" section of this outline.

The above sources and additional transcriptions of Bible records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - BIBLE RECORDS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - BIBLE  
RECORDS

## BIOGRAPHY

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Biographies provide useful genealogical information such as an individual's birth date and place (including foreign birthplace, where applicable); marriage information; family members; occupation; education; and social, political, and religious affiliations. They may also contain previous residences, immigration information, and a physical description. Biographies are the product of family knowledge or previous research, often compiled about the early settlers and prominent citizens of the state, county, or town. Many lesser-known individuals may have biographical sketches written about them, especially in local histories.

The Family History Library has a good collection of biographical sources. Representative biographical works for Kentucky include:



*Kentucky Genealogy and Biography*. 9 vols. Owensboro, Ky.: Genealogical Reference, 1969-. (FHL book 976.9 D3wt; computer number 220030.) These are reprints of the biographical sections of various editions of *Kentucky: A History of the State*, by W. H. Perrin, et al., published during the 1880s. The biographies are arranged by county. Another reprint of the biographical sections of Perrin's work was published by the Southern Historical Press and bears the title of the original work, *Kentucky: A History of the State*. These volumes are facsimiles of the original biographies, with complete name indexes prepared by various individuals. New material was added in 1979. The Family History Library has described each volume on a separate record. (FHL book 976.9 H2p; volume and computer numbers vary.)

*The Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky of the Dead and Living Men of the Nineteenth Century*. 1 vol. in 2. Cincinnati, Ohio: J. M. Armstrong, 1878. (FHL book 976.9 D3b; film 823790; index on film 908759 item 15; computer number 220037.) This includes an index to the more than 1,000 biographies.

*Biographical Cyclopedia of the Commonwealth of Kentucky: Embracing Biographies of Many of the Prominent Men and Families of the State*. 1896. Reprint, Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1980. (FHL book 976.9 D36bi; computer number 424892; film 962285; computer number 119446.) This book contains several hundred biographies and is indexed.

*Biographical Directory of the Kentucky General Assembly*. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Historical Society, 1964. (FHL film 467391 item 2; computer number 274702.) This directory includes members of every session of the Kentucky General Assembly from 1792 to 1964. From 1792 to 1851 the directory is arranged by district, county, then senator for the Senate and by county and then representative for the House of Representatives. After 1851 the directory is arranged by district, county, and senator/representative for both the Senate and House of Representatives. The notes section after every session often contains the date and place of death if the elected official died while in office. It also gives the names of those expelled and the date and reason for the action.

Dickey, John Jay. *Autobiography and Diary*. Lexington, Ky.: University of Kentucky, 1951. (FHL films 157070-5; computer number 384328.) John Jay Dickey (1842-1934) was a Baptist minister from Fleming County, Kentucky, who used his diary to record the

genealogies of anyone who would allow him to do so. The diary runs from 18 November 1882 to 15 October 1933. It is indexed in:

Winton, Wilma. *Pioneer Ghosts of Kentucky, Rest in Peace John Jay Dickey: A Comprehensive Name Index of the Dickey Diary*. 4 vols. Modesto, Calif.: Pearl Bullock, 1986. (FHL book 976.9 D3wi; 6010769-772; computer number 437435.) Mr. Dickey was a Baptist minister who lived in northeastern Kentucky from 1842 to 1934. During his ministry he felt a need to preserve the genealogies of everyone he met.

A compilation of many biographical sketches from the Lyman Copeland Draper collection, described in the "History" section of this outline, is found in:

Draper, Lyman Copeland, comp. *Draper Biographical Sketches*. Chicago: University of Chicago Library, 1951. (FHL film 001750; computer number 327523.) This film is unindexed but includes many biographies of eminent early residents of Kentucky and nearby states.

**Indexes.** Indexes to major collected biographies include:

Cook, Michael L. *Kentucky Index of Biographical Sketches in State, Regional, and County Histories*. Evansville, Ind.: Cook Publications, 1986. (FHL book 976.9 D32c; computer number 440090.) This index is alphabetical by name and includes a page number and a reference to the book where the biography is published.

The Kentucky Biographies Project has compiled over 7,000 biographies, which are available on the Internet at:

"Kentucky Biography" In Kentucky Biographies Project [Internet site]. Plano, Tex.: Starbase-21, October 1999 [cited 25 October 1999]. Available at [www.starbase21.com/kybiog/](http://www.starbase21.com/kybiog/). These biographies can be searched by county or surname.

The Kentucky Historical Society, listed in the "Societies" section of this outline, has an extensive family surname file and a large collection of personal and family histories.

The Department of Special Collections and Archives at the Margaret I. King Library, listed in the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline, has an extensive card index to Kentucky biographies.

See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for information on nationwide biographical collections. See also the "History" and "Genealogy" sections of this outline for additional sources.

The Surname Search of the Family History Library Catalog will lead you to biographies and published family histories on specific surnames. Using the term "Kentucky" in the Keyword Search will help to limit the extent of the search to families in Kentucky.

The Family History Library has many collected biographies and local or county histories with biographical sketches on residents. These can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - BIOGRAPHY  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - BIOGRAPHY  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - HISTORY  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - HISTORY

## CEMETERIES

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For Kentucky there are tombstone transcriptions dating from the early 1800s. They may give the deceased's birth and death dates, age at death, spouse's names, and maiden name if applicable. Less often they contain the birthplaces. Tombstones may have symbols or insignias indicating military service and social or religious affiliations. Family members may be buried nearby.

Since 1977 the Kentucky Historical Society has been computerizing all of the state's existing cemetery records. This index will have genealogical information from an estimated seven million tombstones when it is completed. The society also collects pre-1911 funeral records.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains tombstone inscriptions from many Kentucky cemeteries. The DAR collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. Five volumes of DAR cemetery records have been published separately:

Daughters of the American Revolution (Kentucky). *Kentucky Cemetery Records*. 5 vols. Lexington, Ky.: KSDAR, 1960-. (FHL book 976.9 V22d; vols. 1-3 on film 873712; computer number 221499.) Each volume is indexed.

Many transcriptions are found in:

*Cemetery Records of Kentucky*. 2 vols. N.p., 1962, 1968. (FHL book 976.9 V22L; film 873713; computer number 221504.) Additional volumes of this collection are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under individual counties. These volumes are arranged by county and include abstracts of cemetery records from 15 counties.

Burials in 241 Kentucky cemeteries along the old Wilderness Road are recorded in:

Johnson, Robert Foster. *Wilderness Road Cemeteries in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia*. Owensboro, Ky.: McDowell Publications, 1981. (FHL book 973 V3j; computer number 204092.) The Wilderness Road led from Virginia through northern Tennessee and into Kentucky. The book includes a surname index.

A 1988 county-by-county list of cemetery record transcripts available at the Family History Library is:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, The. Family History Library. *Index to United States Cemeteries*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL films 1206468-94; computer number 475648.) Film 1206474 contains a listing of the cemetery records in Kentucky that are at the library.

## Internet Tombstone Transcripts and Index

Genealogical society members often copy and publish tombstone inscriptions. The USGenWeb Archives has records from hundreds of cemeteries representing more than half of the counties of Kentucky. Partial transcriptions have been made of other cemeteries listed on its Internet site at:

"The Kentucky Tombstone Transcription Project." In USGenWeb Archives Digital Library [Internet site]. N.p.: USGenWeb Archives, 17 February 1999 [cited 20 October 1999]. Available at [www.rootsweb.com/~cemetery/kentucky.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~cemetery/kentucky.html) This is a county-by-county list of cemeteries. The highlighted cemetery include tombstone abstracts. Abstracted cemeteries are indexed in:

"Search the USGenWeb Archives Digital Library" In USGenWeb Archives digital Library [Internet site]. N.p.: USGenWeb Archives, 22 September 1997 [cited 20 October 1999]. Available at [www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ussearch.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ussearch.htm). This Internet site indexes cemetery abstracts



and other items. Select the state of interest, type the name of the ancestor you seek in the "Query" field, and tap the Search button. For best results use the "Search Tips" and examples at the bottom of the web page. The computer will list any matches it finds and give you the option of viewing the full transcript.

Many periodicals publish cemetery records. These are referenced in the "Families" section of the *PERiodical Source Index* (PERSI), described in the "Periodicals" section of this outline.

The Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog lists more of these records under:

KENTUCKY - CEMETERIES  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - CEMETERIES  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -  
CEMETERIES

## CENSUS

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Census records can show the following information for each member of the household: name, age, state or country of birth, marital status, occupation, race, citizenship, and immigration information. They can give clues to marriage dates, death dates, migration patterns, previous residence, adoptions, and divorces. Parents or other relatives may have been living with a family when a census was taken. People listed in the census with the same surname may be related. Statewide indexes help to locate families when only their state of residence is known.

### Federal Censuses

*Population Schedules (1790–1920).* Many federal census records are at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* (30972) provides detailed information regarding these records.

United States federal censuses of Kentucky were taken every ten years from 1790 to 1990. The 1790, 1800, and 1890 censuses have been destroyed. Tax lists have been indexed and published as substitutes for the 1790 and 1800 censuses. The 1890 Union veterans schedule and index for most of the state is available. All other federal censuses through 1920 are available to the public.

*Statewide indexes* represent every household in the Kentucky censuses. For most families they index only the first person listed in each household; this person was usually the father or head of the house.

Many families, however, had relatives or friends with a different surname living with them when the census was taken. In those cases, the first person of each surname in the household is included in the index.

Statewide surname indexes for the 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses have been published. There is a SOUNDEx (phonetic) index on microfilm for part of the 1880 census and all of the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses. The 1995 compact disc version of the 1850 census index omits the counties of Daviess and Owsley. The 1997 *FamilyFinder Index and Viewer* omits the county of Daviess in the 1850 census.

*Countywide indexes* to federal censuses often contain the names of every person in the household and may also include heads of households that were overlooked or whose names were misspelled in statewide indexes. Separate indexes of many Kentucky counties are available for the 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses. These are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - CENSUS -  
[YEAR]

*Multistate census indexes.* Some of the statewide indexes mentioned previously are combined into composite master indexes of several census years, states, and census types:

*FamilyFinder Index and Viewer.* Version 4.0. Family Tree Maker Archives, index. [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 1997. (FHL compact disc no. 9 1997 index; computer number 808500.) This does not circulate to Family History Centers. This index can be searched by name but not by locality or record type. It is a single composite index to tax lists, 1800 to 1860 federal censuses, 1850 and 1860 slave schedules, and 1870 and 1880 mortality schedules. An Internet edition of this index is also available:

"Internet FamilyFinder" In  
FamilyTreeMaker.com [Internet site].  
[Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 21  
July 1999 [cited 20 October 1999].  
Available at  
[www.familytreemaker.com/allsearch.html](http://www.familytreemaker.com/allsearch.html).  
You can search the Internet FamilyFinder  
index for free. It displays the census year  
and state for each name matching the  
search. It may also list many vital records  
and genealogical collection citations. Once  
you know the census year and state, you  
must use the original index on compact  
disc, microfiche, or book to obtain enough

data to find easily the name in the original census schedules. Similar index information is also available at the Internet site [www.Ancestry.com/census/](http://www.Ancestry.com/census/) for a subscription fee. The FamilyFinder Index includes the following Jackson indexes:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *AIS Microfiche Indexes of U.S. Census and Other Records*. Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems International, 1984. (No FHL fiche number, but it is available on microfiche at many Family History Centers.) Census indexes for 1790, 1800, and 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, and 1860 are on searches 1 through 5. There is a composite index for the mortality schedules of 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 on search 8. For further instructions, see *AIS Indexes to U. S. Censuses 1607-1906* (30970).

Census records for selected counties of many states have been combined in an index in compact disc format in:

*Census Index: U.S. Selected States/Counties*. Version 3.0 [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 1995–1996. (FHL compact disc no. 9 parts 34, 303, 310–319; computer number 773983.) This does not circulate to Family History Centers. The compact discs identified as parts 311 to 319 include Kentucky and index portions of the 1790 to 1870 censuses.

When census indexes are not available or they omit or misindex a name, you can still look for the name in the original census schedules. In large cities it helps to first learn a person's address. This can be done by searching city directories near the time of the census. Information for a directory was gathered quite some time before publication. Therefore, a directory for the year *after* the census may match the census better than the one published during the census year. (See the "Directories" section of this outline for more information.) Once the address of an ancestor is learned, search the original census schedules for that address.

Reference tools that help determine which census schedule and enumeration district to search for a specific address include:

*Census Descriptions and Geographical Subdivisions and Enumeration Districts*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, T1224 and T1210. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, 1977–1978. These describe the boundaries of the area covered by each census taker. The films for Kentucky are:

- 1880 FHL film 1402860; computer number 299426
- 1900 FHL film 1303022; computer number 117685
- 1910 FHL film 1374004; computer number 176643
- 1920 FHL film 1842707; computer number 687949

Maps are good tools to use with censuses because of the many boundary changes over the years. A publication that shows county boundary changes during census years in Kentucky is Thorndale and Dollarhide's *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790–1920*, cited in the "Maps" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) under the subheading "Locating Township and County Boundaries."

***Slave Schedules (1850–1860).*** Slave schedules for 1850 and 1860 list the names of slave owners but do not normally list the names of the slaves. The numbers of slaves, their sex, and their age ranges are given. Kentucky slave schedules at the Family History Library are cataloged with the population schedules.

***Mortality Schedules (1850–1880).*** The Kentucky State Archives has mortality schedules, which list persons who died during the 12 months before the 1850 to 1880 federal censuses were taken. In addition to providing the same information about the deceased person that the regular census schedules provided for the living, mortality schedules also state the month of death, cause of death, and the number of days ill. The Family History Library has copies of the schedules:

United States. Bureau of the Census. *Federal Mortality Census Schedules and Related Indexes: Kentucky, 1850; 1860; 1870; 1880*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, T0655. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Record Service, 1962. (FHL films 422419–27; computer number 793502.)

***Veterans Schedules (1840 and 1890).*** In the 1840 federal census a listing was made of the Revolutionary War veterans, giving their ages, their residences, and the names of the heads of the household. The following index is available, listing these veterans for all states:



*A General Index to a Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Service, 1840.* Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1965. (FHL book 973 X2pc 1965 index; fiche 6046771; computer number 270948; film 899835; computer number 271067.) The book with the actual 1840 census information is:

*A Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Service: With Their Names, Ages, and Places of Residence, as Returned by the Marshals of the Several Judicial Districts, Under the Act for Taking the Sixth Census.* Washington D.C.: Printed by Blair and Rives, 1841. (FHL book 973 X2pc 1840; film 1064759 item 3; computer number 270766.)

For a list of Kentucky pensioners, see:

Minix, Sharroll K. *1840 Special Federal Census of Kentucky Pensioners of Revolutionary or Military Service.* [Salyersville, Ky.: Magoffin County Historical Society, 1983. (FHL book 976.9 X2mi; computer number 418522.) The names of the pensioners and heads of the household are listed by county.

In the 1890 census of Kentucky Union Army veterans of the Civil War, the census enumeration was destroyed for about half of the counties. For the remainder of the census, see:

United States. Census Office. 11th Census, 1890. *Schedules Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War.* National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0123. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1948. (On 118 FHL films, beginning with 338160; computer number 59376.) The films for Kentucky are FHL films 338160–2. Each schedule may contain the following information: the veteran's name (or if he did not survive, the names of both the widow and her deceased husband); rank; company; regiment or vessel; date of enlistment and discharge; length of service in years, months, and days; post office and address; and disabilities incurred. The schedule also contains remarks necessary for a complete statement of his term of service. Many Confederate veterans were accidentally enumerated.

For an index to the 1890 veterans schedules, see:

Dilts, Bryan Lee. *1890 Kentucky Census Index of Civil War Veterans or Their Widows.* Salt Lake City: Index Pub., 1984 (FHL book 976.9 X22d 1890; fiche 6331355; computer number 311635.) This does not circulate to Family History Centers. This index contains the name of the veteran or his widow, his county of residence, a supervisor's district, and an enumeration district number.

## Special Censuses

Many counties took school censuses at various times between 1888 and 1932 (mostly 1895 to 1910). These list every person in the household. As of June 1999 the Family History Library has copies of school censuses from 18 counties, such as:

Monroe County Kentucky. Clerk of the County Court. *School Census, 1893–1903.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1969. (FHL film 589661; computer number 228970.) This school census lists the children's name, age, sex, and parents' names.

## Census Substitutes

Records that identify a person's place of residence are often used as substitutes for censuses, especially during colonial times, when censuses were not required or when censuses are missing. Some census substitutes include oaths of allegiance and lists of petitioners. Other substitutes for census records are city directories, tax lists, and voting records, which are described in the "Directories," "Taxation," and "Voting Registers" sections of this outline. These records may be published as statewide census indexes, which often provide only vague references as to the source of the information indexed.

Other Kentucky census sources can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - CENSUS - [YEAR] - INDEXES

KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - CENSUS - [YEAR] - INDEXES

KENTUCKY - CENSUS - [YEAR]

KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - CENSUS



## CHURCH RECORDS

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Church records and the information they provide vary greatly depending on the denomination and the record keeper. They may contain information about members of the congregation, such as ages; dates of baptism, christening, or birth; death information; and marriage information such as a brides' maiden name and the names of both sets of parents. Records may include other relatives who were witnesses or members of the congregation. The members of some churches were predominately of one nationality or ethnic group.

Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Kentucky were the Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic, and Presbyterian Churches. The Family History Library has copies of some original church records, as well as published transcripts and histories.

Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located.

### Baptist

The Baptist Churches in Kentucky have no central repository for their records. Baptist minutes and other records were kept by the clerk of each congregation. Many clerks considered the papers their personal property and upon death their papers often became the property of their descendants. As a result, many Baptist records were lost or remain unaccounted for. A few clerks passed the records to their successors, and the records remained with the church. Some Baptist records have been donated to public libraries or historical and genealogical societies. At the Archives of the Kentucky Baptist Convention (formerly the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society) there are no congregation records, nor does staff know where specific congregation records may be found. The staff can, however, provide addresses of Kentucky congregations when the name of a church is known. The address of the archive is:

Archives of Kentucky Baptist Convention  
10701 Shelbyville Road  
Middletown, KY 40243-0433  
Telephone: 1-502-245-4101

The mailing address is:  
P.O. Box 43433  
Louisville, KY 40253-0433

The major repository for Southern Baptist records in Kentucky is the Archives and Special Collections department of:

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Boyce Centennial Library  
2825 Lexington Road  
Louisville, KY 40280  
E-mail: boyce@sbts.edu

It has Baptist Church histories and Southern Seminary information and photographs. It also has minutes from Baptist Churches and Baptist Church associations. Mostly the records are from Southern Baptists, but there are also records from American, "colored," and Primitive Baptist congregations. Minute books do not contain birth, marriage, or death information. They may, however, help to verify the membership of an individual, tell if someone was disciplined for offenses, or track the movement of a minister.

Minutes and sacramental records of some Southern Baptist congregations have also been sent to the following Tennessee archive:

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives  
The Southern Baptist Convention Building  
901 Commerce Street #400  
Nashville, TN 37203-3630  
Telephone: 1-615-244-0344  
Internet: [www.sbhla.org](http://www.sbhla.org)

Histories of the Baptist Church in Kentucky include:

*Baptists in Kentucky, 1776-1976: A Bicentennial Volume.* Middletown, Ky.: Kentucky Baptist Convention, 1975. (Not at Family History Library.)

Masters, Frank M. *A History of Baptists in Kentucky.* Louisville, Ky.: Kentucky Baptist Historical Society, 1953. (FHL book 976.9 K2ma; computer number 770310.) This history is currently being brought up to date. It is indexed.

Spencer, John H. *A History of Kentucky Baptists: From 1769 to 1885, Including More Than 800 Biographical Sketches.* 2 vols. Cincinnati, Ohio: J. R. Baumes, [1886]. (FHL book 976.9 K2s; film 896971; computer number 33591.) This book includes biographies and is indexed.

### Methodist

The state of Kentucky is covered by two Methodist conferences that oversee the missions and business of the church. The conferences have collected records from churches that have closed. Records of existing congregations are generally still in the churches. The Kentucky Annual

Conference oversees the majority of the churches in Kentucky, while the Redbird Missionary Conference oversees the state's southeastern counties.

Kentucky Annual Conference  
2000 Warrington Way  
Browenton Bldg. Suite 280  
Louisville, KY 40222-3407  
Telephone: 1-502-425-3884  
Fax: 1-502-426-5181

Redbird Missionary Conference  
6 Queendale Center  
Beverly, KY 40913  
Telephone: 1-606-598-5915  
Fax: 1-606-598-6405

For background information about the Methodist Church, see:

Arnold, William Erastus. *A History of Methodism in Kentucky*. 2 vols. Louisville, Ky.: Herald Pub., 1935-1936. (FHL book 976.9 K2a; fiche 6048430-1; computer number 220599.) This book is indexed and contains a history of the Methodist Church before 1935.

Short, Roy H. *Methodism in Kentucky*. Rutland, Vt.: Academy Books, 1979. (Not at Family History Library.)

## Roman Catholic

Records of existing Catholic parishes are generally kept in the individual churches, though copies of the sacramental records are sent to the appropriate diocese. Sacramental records include baptisms and confirmations, which may contain marriage and burial information as well as godparents' names. The diocesan archives also have some school records. The state of Kentucky is served by the following four Catholic dioceses:

Diocese of Covington  
Office of the Archive  
P.O. Box 18548  
Erlanger, KY 41018-0548  
Telephone: 1-606-283-6210  
Fax: 1-606-283-6334

Diocese of Lexington  
1310 West Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40508-2040  
Telephone: 1-606-253-1993

Lexington is a relatively new diocese. It has copies of sacramental records from 1950 to the present; earlier records are in the Diocese of Covington.

Archdiocese of Louisville

212 East College Street  
Louisville, KY 40203  
Telephone: 1-502-585-3291

Diocese of Owensboro  
Catholic Pastoral Center  
600 Locust Street  
Owensboro, KY 42301  
Telephone: 1-502-683-1545

For histories of the Catholic Church in Kentucky, see:

Webb, Benjamin J. *The Centenary of Catholicity in Kentucky*. 1884. Reprint, Utica, Ky.: McDowell Publications, [198-]. (FHL book 976.9 K2w; computer number 217278; film 007810; computer number 326575.) This work is indexed in:

Olson, Mary M. *A Complete Index to Webb's Centenary of Catholicity in Kentucky: Including an Appendix on all Catholic Churches and Missions in Kentucky*. Rineyville, Ky.: M. M. Olson, 1983. (FHL book 976.9 K2w index; computer number 275904.)

Spalding, M. J. *Sketches of the Early Catholic Missions of Kentucky, 1787 to 1827*. 1844. Reprint, [Melber, Ky.: Simons, 198-]. (FHL book 976.9 K2sp; computer number 114222.) It is indexed by surname.

## Presbyterian

The records of the Presbyterian Churches are kept in the individual congregations. Records are only centralized when a congregation wants to have records archived or when a church closes. Records that have been archived are sent to one of the following two repositories:

Presbyterian Historical Society  
425 Lombard Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147-1516  
Telephone: 1-215-627-1852

Presbyterian Historical Society  
318 Georgia Terrace  
Montreat, NC 38757  
Telephone: 1-828-669-7061  
Fax: 1-828-669-5369

Their mailing address is:  
Presbyterian Historical Society  
P.O. Box 849  
Montreat, NC 38757

The above mentioned archives collect papers of ministers and session, trustee, and women's



missionary society records. These records may contain information about members' baptisms, marriages, and communions. The staff at the archives do not do research; however, you can do research in person for a small fee. A published guide to the holdings of the archives is mentioned in the "Church Records" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) under the heading "Presbyterian."

The Presbyterian Church in Kentucky is coordinated by the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. The library of the seminary does not collect records of any congregations, but it does have ministerial directories with information on many ministers. The staff of the library can direct you to congregations in the state where records may be located. Inquiries to the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary should be directed to:

The Library  
Louisville Presbyterian Seminary  
1044 Alta Vista Road  
Louisville, KY 40205  
Telephone: 1-502-895-3411  
Fax: 1-502-895-1096

For a history of early Presbyterians in Kentucky, see:

McDonnold, Benjamin Wilburn. *History of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church*, 2nd ed. Nashville, Tenn.: Board of Publication of Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 1888. (FHL book 976 K2m; film 369750; computer number 264102.) This early church covered parts of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. The book is indexed.

Weeks, Louis. *Kentucky Presbyterians*. Atlanta, Ga.: John Knox Press, 1983. (Not at Family History Library.)

A collection of historical, biographical, and genealogical records of the Presbyterian Church in the early days of Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania is:

*Shane Manuscript Collection*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1966–1967. (On 36 FHL films, beginning with 498615; computer number 198653.) An index to the Kentucky papers in this collection is:

Hall, William K. *The Shane Manuscript Collection: A Genealogical Guide to the Kentucky and Ohio Papers*. Galveston, Tex.: Frontier Press, 1990. (FHL book 974.811 A3h; film 2055130 item 14; computer number 446273.) This name index shows the Shane Manuscript reel

number and the corresponding FHL film number.

For information on other denominations, see the "Church Records" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972).

## COURT RECORDS

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Names of many Kentucky residents are found in district and county court records. Civil court actions include disputes over property and settlement of estates. Criminal court actions include confrontations, thefts, or destruction of property. These records may give a person's age, residence, occupation, or family relationships. Friends and neighbors may have given depositions as witnesses. Court records include dockets, minutes, case files, and orders. Land, tax, and probate matters may be included.

Major Kentucky courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

1780– present *County courts* initially had countywide jurisdiction over all records of civil and criminal cases. Later these courts recorded deeds, bonds, probates, and juvenile matters. After 1852 most criminal cases were handled by circuit or quarterly courts. The Family History Library has many county court minutes and order books.

1787– 1802 *Courts of quarter sessions* heard suits involving large amounts of money.

1787– present *Circuit courts* have countywide jurisdiction over major civil and criminal cases, divorces, and appeals from inferior courts. The Family History Library has some circuit court order books or minutes.

1787– present *Quarterly courts* have countywide jurisdiction over minor criminal cases.

Other courts include the justice's court, court of oyer and terminer, court of appeals, examining court, and general court.

Original court records are kept either in the county courthouse or at the state archives. The Family History Library and the Department of Libraries and Archives have microfilm copies of court records from many counties. Few of the records are well indexed. Many transcribed records are available at the University of Kentucky Library, the Kentucky Historical Society, and the Filson Club Library. Some records have been transcribed and published in books or periodicals. The great

majority, however, are still in boxes, cabinets, and folders and have not been copied. For more information about court procedures and records, see:

Ireland, Robert M. *The County Courts in Antebellum Kentucky*. Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 1972. (FHL book 976.9 P2i; computer number 221014.) This book details the history of Kentucky county courts.

The court structure and history are described in:

Lockwood, Evelyn M. *Index to Kentucky Legal History: References to Selected Sources of Information Concerning the 18th and 19th Centuries*. Frankfort, Ky.: The Library, 1983. (Not at Family History Library.)

Richardson, William C. *An Administrative History of Kentucky Courts to 1850*. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Department for Archives and Libraries, 1983. (FHL book 976.9 P2r; computer number 335099.) This booklet contains a history of Kentucky's court system with its table of laws and judicial maps.

See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more detailed information on court records. Refer to the "Divorce," "Guardianship," "Probate Records," "Vital Records," and "Naturalization and Citizenship" sections of this outline for information about those specific court records.

Court records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - COURT  
RECORDS  
KENTUCKY - COURT RECORDS

## **DIRECTORIES**

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Directories have been published for various Kentucky cities and counties since the early 1800s, though they may not exist for every year. Some directories focus on the businesses or occupations of an area, while others include heads of households, landowners, and voters.

City and county directories are similar to present-day telephone books and are useful records for locating people. They were often published annually, listing heads of households and employed household members, their occupations, and their addresses. They can be used with census records or as substitutes for them.

Directories are particularly helpful for research in large cities, where a high percentage of the people were renters, new arrivals, or temporary residents. In fact, a directory may be the only source to list an ancestor if he or she was not registered to vote and did not own property. Most households were included because the directories were created for salesmen, merchants, and others interested in contacting residents of an area.

Directories have other clues that may require careful study to discover. For example, people in similar or related occupations were often relatives, in-laws, or friends. A year-by-year study of directories may reveal the movements of ancestors and relatives within the city and sometimes to or from other cities.

The Family History Library has directories from throughout the state of Kentucky. Many were published as county directories listing inhabitants of major towns in the county. Rural directories collected information on farmers, dairymen, and other rural residents.

### **City Directories**

The following are representative of the city directories in the Family History Library Catalog:

*Louisville (Kentucky) City Directories*.  
Woodridge, Conn.: Research Publications, 1980–1984. (On 57 FHL films, beginning with 1376990; computer number 655226.) This directory includes the years 1861 and 1864 to 1935.

*Lexington (Kentucky) City Directories*.  
Woodridge, Conn.: Research Publications, 1980–1984. (FHL; films 1759869–74, 1376974; fiche 6044043–6; computer number 655004.) This directory includes the years 1806 to 1935, but many of the directories for the earlier years are missing or were never published.

City directories also exist for Covington and Newport from the mid-1800s to the 1930s. Some of them are published with Cincinnati directories. During these years Covington was more populous than Lexington.

### **State Directories**

Directories pertaining to the state of Kentucky include:



*Kentucky (State) Directories*. Woodridge, Conn.: Research Publications. 1980–1984. (FHL fiche 6044020 [set of 8]; computer number 654735.) The directory includes the years 1859 to 1860 and is arranged alphabetically by city.

For a directory to Kentucky businesses, see *Kentucky Places and People: R.L. Polk & Co.'s Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1895–96*, mentioned in the “Gazetteers” section of this outline.

Multiple-city directories exist for some Kentucky cities and their neighboring cities in adjacent states, such as:

Gardner and Gaines. *Business Directory: Of Bowling Green, Hopkinsville, Russellville, Clarksville, Woodburn, Franklin, Gallatin & Glasgow for 1876–77*. 1876. Reprint, [Franklin, Ky.: Simpson County Archives, 199–]. (FHL book 976.9 E4g; fiche 6111317; computer number 714606.) This directory is arranged by town and then by occupation and alphabetically by name.

The Family History Library, Kentucky Historical Society, Filson Club, Kentucky Room at the Lexington Central Public Library, University of Kentucky, and other Kentucky repositories have collections of city and county directories.

Many groups have created directories of their organizational structure and members or personnel. Companies may create directories of their subscribers. The directories that were published for public distribution are the ones most likely to find their way into libraries and archives. Typical examples of directories that may be found in an archive are city directories, telephone directories, church directories, occupational directories, farmers directories, or rosters of society members. These directories may range in scope from local to international. Often the most recent edition of a directory is the only one an archive will have available.

Current telephone directories can also be found on the Internet and may help you find living relatives. The Family History Library has compact discs that incorporate telephone directories for most of the United States. See the “Directories” section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more detailed information on these directories.

To find directories, consult the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - DIRECTORIES  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - DIRECTORIES  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -  
DIRECTORIES

## DIVORCE RECORDS

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In the early 1800s the legislature, circuit courts, and city courts granted divorces. Divorce records may indicate the date and place of the marriage being dissolved. Circuit or city courts have handled most divorce proceedings.

The Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics has a statewide register of divorces since 1 January 1972 and can verify the date and county of a divorce or annulment. This is helpful when the county is not known. Its address can be found in the “Vital Records” section of this outline. Application forms and instructions for obtaining divorce certificates can be acquired from the Office of Vital Statistics’ web site, listed in the “Vital Records” section of this outline.

An index to these divorce records is:

Kentucky. Office of Vital Statistics. *Divorce Indexes, 1972–1990*. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics, 1991. (FHL fiche 6200221–2 [set of 56]; computer number 684395.) There is no circulation to Family History Centers. This index contains the name of the husband and wife, the county in which the divorce occurred, the date of the divorce, and the volume and certificate number. There are separate indexes for the husband and wife.

An index to Kentucky divorce records from 1973 to 1993 is also available on the University of Kentucky’s web site, mentioned in the “Vital Records” section of this outline.

Original divorce records for all years are available in the county where the divorce occurred. The Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives maintains original criminal and court case files. It may have records of some early divorces not available in the counties.

The Family History Library has copies of the divorce records for some counties. They can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:



KENTUCKY - DIVORCE RECORDS -  
INDEXES  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - DIVORCE  
RECORDS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - COURT  
RECORDS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - VITAL  
RECORDS

## EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

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The *United States Research Outline* (30972) "Emigration and Immigration" section lists several important sources for finding information about immigrants to the United States. These nationwide sources include many references to people who settled in Kentucky. *Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestor* (34111) introduces the principles, search strategies, and additional record types you can use to identify an immigrant ancestor's original hometown.

### Immigration and Migration

Prestatehood settlers of Kentucky were mostly of English and Ulster Scots descent who migrated from the Atlantic seaboard states. Immigrants from North Carolina and southwestern Virginia came by way of the Cumberland Gap and over the Wilderness Road. Immigrants from Maryland and Pennsylvania came on flatboats and rafts down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh.

Other early immigrants included small groups of French, Swiss, and Welsh. During the mid-19th century the Ohio River brought many German immigrants and settlers from New England and the Middle Atlantic states. Many Irish settled in Louisville during this time.

There was a large African American population in Kentucky prior to the Civil War. The coal boom of the early 1900s brought additional African Americans and new immigrants from Europe to work in the Cumberland Plateau area. Further information on specific settlement patterns can be found in county and local histories.

Many settlers moved from Kentucky to areas further west. In 1816 a small army of settlers began moving to Indiana, then on to Illinois. In the following years many more people migrated westward from the state, giving Kentucky claim to the title "Mother of Western States."

## Records

Most foreign-born immigrants who came to Kentucky arrived at the ports of New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, or other Atlantic and Gulf ports. Passenger lists for these ports are available at the Family History Library and the National Archives. The "Emigration and Immigration" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) gives details about those records.

Some published sources about migration to and from Kentucky include:

Bender, Lucy Rearden. *Marriage, Birth and Death Records of Families with Proved Lineages of American Revolution Ancestors: Who Emigrated from Virginia to Kentucky and From There to Texas, 1850-1895*. [Langley Field, Va.: n.p.], 1937. (FHL book 976.4 V2b; film 851114 item 2; computer number 247353.) This indicates the name of the Revolutionary ancestor and his or her date of birth, marriage, or death.

Kincaid, Robert L. *The Wilderness Road*. Harrogate, Tenn.: Lincoln Memorial University Press, 1955. (FHL book 973 H2k; computer number 227946.) This tells the history of the Wilderness Road, which extended from southwestern Virginia to central Kentucky through the Cumberland Gap. It was a major route for settlers heading west.

Peden, Henry C. Jr. *Marylanders to Kentucky, 1775-1825*. Westminster, Md.: Family Line, 1991. (FHL Book 976.9 W2p; computer number 636856.)

Peden, Henry C., Jr. *More Marylanders to Kentucky, 1778-1828*. Westminster, Md.: Family Line, 1997. (FHL Book 976.9 W2pe; computer number 811291.) These books contain biographies of Kentucky residents who migrated from Maryland.

See the "Minorities" section of this outline for sources on African American and German immigrants to Kentucky. Other sources on emigration and immigration can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - EMIGRATION AND  
IMMIGRATION  
KENTUCKY - MIGRATION, INTERNAL

## Migration Trails

For the history and location of some of the old roads in Kentucky used by immigrants, see:

Brown, Cecil. *Old Roads in Kentucky: The Wilderness Road, Indian War Roads, Trails of the Buffalo, Early Road Customs*. 1929. Reprint, Lexington, Ky.: Margaret I. King Library, University of Kentucky, 1953. (FHL film 156888 item 3; computer number 414954.) This is a microfilm edition of a work originally published in 1929.

Dollarhide, William. *Map Guide to American Migration Routes, 1735–1815*. Bountiful, Utah: AGLL Genealogical Services, 1977. (FHL book 973 E3d; computer number 805237.) This includes a place-name index and shows migration trails through Kentucky.

There are maps of several migration trails into Kentucky and other states in *The Handy Book for Genealogists*, described in the “For Further Reading” section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972).

## FUNERAL HOMES

Funeral home records may give details about the deceased, such as his or her death and burial date and place, birth date and place, parents, spouse, maiden name, other family members, and religion. The records also indicate those responsible for the funeral expenses. It is common for a funeral home to include a biography or obituary and the names and residences of surviving relatives. Morticians frequently file the death certificate and have a copy of the obituary published in one or more newspapers as requested by the family.

Some funeral home records start as early as the mid-1800s, although many early records have been lost or destroyed. Old records may be in the custody of a funeral home currently in business in the area, because mortuaries that changed hands or relocated frequently saved the old records. Some records have been given to local libraries or societies. An example of funeral home records is:

Rogers Funeral Home (Frankfort, Kentucky). *Cemetery Records*. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Historical Society, 1989 (FHL films 1688894–906; computer number 605063.) Each book is in alphabetical order and contains the name of the deceased, with his or her date and place of birth, death, and burial; occupation; residence; and parents' and spouse's names.

Funeral home personnel are generally familiar with the locations of active cemeteries and sextons or caretakers you can contact. Telephone calls or personal visits are generally more effective than letters.

For references to nationwide funeral home directories, see the “Cemeteries” section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972). Funeral homes in the area where you live usually have a current copy of these books.

A few published funeral home records for Kentucky are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - FUNERAL HOMES

KENTUCKY, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - FUNERAL HOMES

## GAZETTEERS

A gazetteer is a list and description of places such as villages, towns, and cities and may also mention neighborhoods, cemeteries, populations, rivers and mountains, and other geographical features. It can be used to locate the places where your ancestor lived.

Several guides to place names in Kentucky include:

*Atlas of Kentucky*. Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 1998. (Not at Family History Library.)

*Kentucky Places and People: 1895–96. Reprint of R. L. Polk and Company's "Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory."* 1895. Reprint, Utica, Ky.: McDowell Publications, 1984. (FHL book 976.9 E4k; computer number 301319.) The city and town locations are described, and business names are listed in alphabetical order.

Rennick, Robert M. *Kentucky Place Names*. Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 1984. (FHL book 976.9 E2r; computer number 402519.) The location and history of the town or county are given.

Riddle, Billie Jean. “Creeks, Branches, Forks, Licks, Runs, Sloughs and Hollows in Kentucky.” *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*. 49: 280–330. (FHL film 896519; computer number 210850.) This alphabetical list of water courses contains the names of the counties where they are located.



For more information about place-finding aids for Kentucky, see the "Maps" section of this outline. Other gazetteers and place name resources can be located in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - GAZETTEERS  
KENTUCKY - NAMES, GEOGRAPHICAL  
KENTUCKY - HISTORY - PERIODICALS  
KENTUCKY - HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

## GENEALOGY

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The term *genealogy* is used in this outline and in the Family History Library Catalog to describe a variety of records containing family information previously gathered by other researchers, societies, or archives. These records can include pedigree charts, compiled data on families, correspondence, ancestor lists, research exchange files, record abstracts, and collections of original or copied documents. These sources can save time, but because they are compiled from other sources, they must be carefully evaluated for accuracy.

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections of previous research and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person. Some major genealogical collections and published sources for Kentucky are found below.

### Nationwide Indexes

You will find information about your ancestor in the following important nationwide genealogical indexes described in the *United States Research Outline* (30972) in the sections indicated.

- *Ancestral File* ("Genealogy" section. Also available on the FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service.)
- *FamilyFinder Index* ("Census" section. Also on the Internet at [www.familytreemaker.com/allsearch.html](http://www.familytreemaker.com/allsearch.html).)
- Family History Library Catalog Surname Search ("Introduction" and "Genealogy" sections. Also available on the FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service.)
- *International Genealogical Index* ("Genealogy" section. Also partially available on FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service.)
- *Index to National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC)* ("Genealogy" section. Also available on the Internet at <http://lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html>.)

- *Old Surname Index File* ("Genealogy" section)
- *Pedigree Resource File* consists of unedited, lineage-linked pedigrees submitted over the Internet to the Family History Department since 1999. It also includes the associated family groups, descendency charts, and sometimes notes or sources. It is available for purchase at the Family History Library for use on personal computers.
- *Periodical Source Index (PERSI)* ("Periodicals" section. Also available on the Internet at [www.ancestry.com/ancestry/search/3165.htm](http://www.ancestry.com/ancestry/search/3165.htm) for a subscription fee.)
- *Social Security Death Index* ("Vital Records" section.) This index is also available on the Internet at <http://ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com/> or on compact disc from several companies. The Internet version sometimes includes a few more recently reported deaths than compact disc versions. For details about the FamilySearch compact disc version see the resource guide *U.S. Social Security Death Index* (34446).
- *U.S. Military Death Index* lists deaths of service men and women in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. It is available at most Family History Centers as part of FamilySearch. For details see the resource guide *Military Index* (34540).

These indexes are available at the Family History Library and many libraries with family history collections.

### Web Sites about Your Family

Search the Internet for family history web sites about you surname. Use the "Search for Ancestors" feature of the FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service at [www.familysearch.com/default.asp](http://www.familysearch.com/default.asp) to help you find such sites.

### Statewide Collections and Publications

*American Genealogical-Biographical Index.*  
Vols. 1–198+. Middletown, Conn.: Godfrey Memorial Library, 1952–. (FHL book 973 D22am ser. 2; On 31 FHL films, beginning with 1698167; computer number 49554.) This is a continuing series. An earlier edition of 48 volumes was published as *The American Genealogical Index* for 1942 to 1951. The expanded edition consists of 198+ volumes indexing over 12 million brief citations (name.

date, and source) to over 1,150 manuscripts, periodicals, or books. This index is also available through:

“American Genealogical Biographical Index (AGBI).” In Ancestry.com [Internet site]. [Orem, Utah]: Ancestry, 1999. Available at [www.ancestry.com/agbi.htm](http://www.ancestry.com/agbi.htm). This online database is available only to Ancestry.com members for a subscription fee. It is also available on CD-ROM.

To help interpret citations and locate the original sources use the colored pages in some volumes or:

*Key Title Index to the American Genealogical Biographical Index: Register of Family History Library Call Numbers*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL book 973 D22am index; film 1698167 item 4; fiche 6088377; computer number 491052.) This shows which sources are at the Family History Library and their call numbers.

## Manuscript Collections

Barton, E. E. *Barton Collection of Northern Kentucky Families*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1963. (On 94 FHL films, beginning with 341195; computer number 378821.) Most of this collection relates to Pendleton County, but some of the material extends to neighboring counties and to Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. It contains biographies, guardian bonds, appraisements, marriages, and church records, which are arranged in alphabetical order by families. It was microfilmed at the Margaret I. King Library.

Daughters of the American Revolution (Kentucky). *Genealogical Collection*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. (On 28 FHL films, beginning with 851641; computer number 453337.) This collection consists of transcripts of Bible, cemetery, church, marriage, death, obituary, and probate records at the DAR Library, in Washington, D.C. The volumes are generally arranged by county and many have individual indexes.

Ardery, Julia Hoge Spencer. *Ardery Collection, ca. 1750–1970*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1970. (On 81 FHL films, beginning with 831459; computer number 49418.) This is a set of volumes containing abstracts of Kentucky and Virginia court records, deeds, family Bibles, family histories, and correspondence. It is not indexed, but

most of the 24 volumes are in an alphabetical series, either by county or by first letter of surname. It is at the Margaret I. King Library.

Wilson, Samuel M. *Collection of Samuel M. Wilson of Lexington, Kentucky*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1958. (FHL films 174919–28; computer number 386125.) This is a private collection of correspondence, genealogical notes, and abstracts of records about families from central Kentucky. The collection is in alphabetical order by county. Most of the information in each county is arranged alphabetically by surname.

Filson Club Surname Folders. The Filson Club (see the “Societies” section of this outline) has folders containing records of approximately 3,000 Kentucky families. These are filed by surname and have not been microfilmed.

## Published Sources

*Kentucky Family Records*. Owensboro, Ky.: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, 1970–. (FHL book 976.9 D2f; computer number 134848.) Records in this publication are mainly from west central Kentucky.

Fowler, Ila Earle. *Kentucky Pioneers and Their Descendants*. 1941–1950. Reprint, Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1967. (FHL book 976.9 D2d 1967; computer numbers 209548, 219629, and 720020.) This book is indexed and contains abstracts of family, church, and county records.

*Genealogies of Kentucky Families: From The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*. 2 vols. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1981. (FHL book 976.9 D2gk; computer number 130250.) These genealogies are listed alphabetically by surname, and an index is included.

*Genealogies of Kentucky Families: From the Filson Club History Quarterly*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1981. (FHL book 976.9 D2gkf; computer number 124410.) This book contains histories of families and abstracts of cemetery records. It is alphabetical by surname and includes an index. These volumes are reproduced on the following compact disc:



*Family History: Kentucky Genealogies*. Part 1. [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 1996. (FHL compact disc no. 9 pt. 185; computer number 818557.) This disc contains about 15,000 names from the 1700s to 1800s.

Hehir, Donald M. *Kentucky Families: A Bibliographic Listing*. Bowie, Md.: Heritage, 1993. (FHL book 976.9 D23h; computer number 707861.) This book is arranged alphabetically by surname and includes a list of sources for each name. It is indexed.

Kozee, William Carlos. *Early Families of Eastern and Southeastern Kentucky, and Their Descendants*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1961. (FHL book 976.9 D2ke 1973; computer number 787740.) The families are arranged alphabetically by surname, and there is a general index.

McAdams, Ednah Wilson. *Kentucky Pioneer and Court Records, Abstracts of Early Wills, Deeds, and Marriages from Court Houses, and Records of Old Bibles Churches, Graveyards, and Cemeteries . . .* 1929. Reprint, Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1975. (FHL book 976.9 P2m 1975; computer number 440393; film 459632 item 2; computer number 221016.) This book includes records from 15 counties in north central Kentucky.

For genealogy sources for the United States, see the "Genealogy" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972).

Other genealogical records of Kentucky can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - GENEALOGY  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY

## **GUARDIANSHIP**

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Guardianship proceedings occurred when minor children were orphaned or when only the father or "bread winner" died. The mother was allowed to retain guardianship if officials considered her circumstances sufficient to provide for the children. Another person appointed as guardian may have been a relative, a friend of the family, or one who could teach the minor(s) a trade. In some cases guardians or administrators were appointed to handle the affairs of adults who were deemed incompetent.

County officials appointed guardians to provide minor children with education or training, making it more likely that the minors would become contributing members of the community rather than wards of the county or state.

Guardianship records usually give the name of the deceased parent(s) and the names and ages of the minor children. The records have been kept by the clerks of either the county courts or the circuit courts in Kentucky. They are most often intermingled with probate or court records.

The Family History Library has guardianship records for most counties in Kentucky. They can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] -  
GUARDIANSHIP

## **HISTORY**

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Effective family history research requires some understanding of the historical events that affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. State, county, and town histories often include biographical sketches of local residents, including important genealogical information. This may be one of the best sources of information for some families.

The following important events in the history of Kentucky affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

- 1772 Fincastle County was formed from Botetourt County, Virginia. It included all of the present state of Kentucky and small portions of Virginia and West Virginia.
- 1774 Harrodsburg was established as the first permanent settlement in Kentucky. Settlements at Boonesboro, St. Asaph, and Danville soon followed. Early settlers received land warrants for their participation in the French and Indian War.
- 1776 Kentucky County was created from Fincastle County, Virginia. It included the eastern part of present-day Kentucky.



- 1792 The Commonwealth of Kentucky was admitted to the Union as the 15th state. Many pioneers of Kentucky were Revolutionary War veterans who came to claim bounty land.
- 1803 Migration through Kentucky, as well as settlement there, increased after the Louisiana Purchase.
- 1812– The War of 1812 involved many  
1815 Kentucky soldiers.
- 1852 Kentucky law required counties to record births, marriages, and deaths.
- 1815– Kentucky settlers benefitted from  
1860 improvements in transportation, including river steamboats, canals, and railroads.
- 1861– Kentucky officially supported the  
1865 Union in the Civil War, but its soldiers served on both sides (120,000 Union and 60,000 Confederate).
- 1862 The Kentucky law requiring counties to record births, marriages, and deaths was repealed.
- 1870s Further attempts were made to record births, marriages, and deaths.
- 1911 Kentucky again required the registration of births and deaths.
- 1917 Over 75,000 Kentuckians served in World War I.
- 1920s The coal mining industry boomed.
- 1930s Many coal miners lost their jobs, and small farms were abandoned as the depression hit Kentucky. Many Kentuckians moved to the cities for better jobs.
- 1939– Over 300,000 Kentuckians served in  
1945 World War II. Coal mines and farms became productive again.
- 1950– Tourism became a major industry as  
1970s new highways were built. Coal mining and manufacturing continued to grow.

## Draper Manuscript Collection

The *Draper Manuscript Collection* is a significant regional source that includes records of Kentucky.

Draper, Lyman Copeland. *Draper Manuscript Collection*. Chicago: University of Chicago Library, 197–?. (On 147 FHL films, beginning with 889098; computer number 254597.) The *Draper Manuscript Collection* consists of nearly 500 volumes of manuscripts, papers, and books collected by Lyman Copeland Draper about the history of the trans-Allegheny West, a region including the western areas of the Carolinas and Virginia, all the Ohio River Valley, and part of the upper Mississippi Valley from the 1740s to 1830. The collection is divided into 50 series. Some series are titled by geographic area, some by the names of prominent frontier leaders, and some by topic. The bulk of the collection consists of notes from interviews, questionnaires, and letters gathered during Draper's extensive travels and research to learn about frontier history. Personal papers are much more rare than government or military records. The collection includes many items of a genealogical or biographical nature. For an inventory and partial indexes, see:

Harper, Josephine L. *Guide to the Draper Manuscripts*. Madison, Wis.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1983. (FHL book 977.583/M1 A3h; fiche 6050187; computer number 37812.) This guide gives series and volume descriptions for some of the Draper manuscripts. There are several indexes at the end of the book, including a name and subject index, an additional personal data index, and a list of references to Kentucky.

Wolfe, Barbara Schull. *Index to Lyman C. Draper Manuscripts*. Logansport, Ind.: B.S. Wolfe, 197–?. (FHL book 977.583/M1 A3w; computer number 525504.) The name index gives the series and volume numbers but is not complete.

An index of the pioneer histories and genealogies of Kentucky is:

State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Library. *Calendar of The Kentucky Papers of the Draper Collection of Manuscripts*. 1925. Reprint, Utica, Ky.: McDowell Publications, 1983. (FHL book 977.5 A3ws vol. 2 1983; computer number 320756; film 823866 item 2; computer number 243390.)

## State Histories

Sources for studying the history of Kentucky are:

Allen, William B. *A History of Kentucky, Embracing Gleanings, Reminiscences, Antiquities, Natural Curiosities, Statistics, and Biographical Sketches*. 1872. Reprint, [N.p.]: Green County Historical Society, 1967. (FHL book 976.9 H2aw 1967; computer number 220048; film 924939; computer number 220051.) This book includes some biographical sketches and is indexed.

Harrison, Lowell H. *A New History of Kentucky*. Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 1998. (FHL book 976.9 H2ha; computer number 816282.) This book contains chapters on the history of the economy, education, politics, slavery, and social changes in Kentucky. It is indexed.

Kerr, Charles. *History of Kentucky*. 5 vols. Chicago: American Historical Society, 1922. (FHL book 976.9 H2k; films 1000045–6; computer number 220414.) Volumes 3 through 5 contain several hundred biographical sketches. An index is included with volume one of this record.

### Local Histories

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. Published histories of towns, counties, and states usually contain accounts of area families. The “History” section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) cites nationwide bibliographies of local histories that includes local histories of Kentucky. For a statewide bibliography of local histories, see:

John Winston Coleman. *A Bibliography of Kentucky History*. Lexington, Ky.: University of Kentucky Press, 1949. (FHL book 976.9 H2co; film 1425564 item 2; computer number 220059.) This bibliography lists sources of Kentucky history by subject and by the repositories that contain copies.

The Family History Library has a sizeable history collection for Kentucky consisting of two main types of records. First there are published histories of the state, its counties, and towns. They often contain maps, information on religious and civic organizations, and biographies of individuals and families who have lived in the area. Second, there are copies of documents on microfilm and in published form that broaden a genealogist’s understanding of the times and places their ancestors lived. Many of the documents include names of individuals involved in the event being documented.

The printed histories and microfilmed copies of the original documents used to write such histories are found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - HISTORY  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - HISTORY  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -  
HISTORY

## LAND AND PROPERTY

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The availability of land attracted many immigrants to America and encouraged westward expansion. Land ownership was generally recorded in an area as soon as settlers began to arrive. Land records are primarily used to learn where an individual lived and when he or she lived there. They often reveal other family information such as the name of a spouse, heirs, other relatives, and neighbors. You may learn where a person lived previously, his or her occupation, if the ancestor served in the military, if he or she was a naturalized citizen, or other clues for further research. Sale of the land may show when the person left and may mention where he or she was moving to.

Kentucky was a “state-land” state, meaning the state government appropriated all land within its borders. Land was surveyed in odd-sized lots in much of the state, but west of the Tennessee River it was surveyed in townships. Several types of land grants were issued in Kentucky. Warrants authorizing surveys of the desired land were issued to persons qualified to receive grants for military service (military warrants) or cash payments (treasury warrants).

### Land Grants

Original warrants, surveys, patents, and Virginia land records are at the Kentucky Land Office, Capitol Building, Frankfort, KY 40602. The files and their indexes are open to the public. Additional land records are at the Kentucky Historical Society and the various county courthouses.

The following collections are at the Kentucky Land Office and on microfilm at the Family History Library. Indexes are generally found at the beginning of each set.

*Virginia Grants (1773–1792)*. These grants were issued to men who served in the French and Indian War and in the Revolutionary War or their heirs.



Hammon, Neal O. *Early Kentucky Land Records, 1773–1780*. Louisville, Ky.: Filson Club, 1992. (FHL book 976.9 R28h; computer number 702527.) This book indexes early Kentucky land records, beginning with the Fincastle County entries in 1774 to 1776 and continuing to the military surveys. The original Fincastle records are at the Montgomery County, Virginia, Courthouse. Military lands do not include grants for Revolutionary War service.

Virginia. Governor. *Virginia Grants, 1782–1792*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1962. (FHL films 272809–17; computer number 62183.) FHL film 272809 is an index to this record.

**Old Kentucky Grants (1793–1856).** These records include military, seminary, and academic records; treasury warrants; and preemption grants. Some of these were based on warrants and surveys issued by Virginia.

Kentucky. Governor. *Old Kentucky Grants, 1793–1856*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1962. (FHL films 272818–26; computer number 62197.) Film 272818 is an index for these records.

**Kentucky Land Warrants (1816–1873).** These were primarily warrants for lands east of the Tennessee River.

Kentucky. Governor. *Kentucky Land Warrants, 1816–1873; Index, 1812–1836*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1962. (FHL films 272843–64; computer number 62303.) Film 272843 is an index for these records.

**Grants South of Green River (1797–1866).** These lands were reserved by Virginia for soldiers of the Revolutionary War and were also used as a relief for squatters.

Kentucky. Governor. *Grants South of Green River, 1797–1866*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1962. (FHL films 272827–41; computer number 62297.) Film 272827 is an index for these records.

**Tellico Land Grants (1802–1853).** These grants were for lands the Cherokee Indians ceded to the United States in 1805. They were obtained by Treasury warrants.

Kentucky. State Land Office. *Tellico Land Grant Surveys, v. 1–2, 1802–1817*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1962. (FHL film 272961; computer number 418334.) These volumes show the survey number and

indicate the grant and survey volume and page number, the name of the person receiving the survey, and the number of acres.

Kentucky. State Land Office. *Tellico Land Grants, 1803–1853, v. 1–2*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1962. (FHL film 272842; computer number 418332.) These grants include the name of the person the grant was given to, the number of acres, the land certificate or warrant number, and the grant volume and page number.

**Grants West of the Tennessee River (1822–1900).** These grants were based on Treasury warrants.

Kentucky. Governor. *Grants West of Tennessee River, 1820–1900*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1962. (FHL films 272865–8; computer number 62384.) Film 272865 is an index to this record.

**County Court Orders (1836–1955).** In 1835 the counties began selling unowned lands within their boundaries.

Kentucky. Governor. *County Court Orders, 1836–1955*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1962. (FHL films 272875–938; computer number 62340.) Films 272875–6 are indexes to this record.

Due to the numerous disputes and litigations concerning Kentucky lands, consult the Court of Appeal deed books:

Kentucky. Court of Appeals. *Deed Books, 1780–1909*. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Historical Society, 1966. (FHL films 551280–92; computer number 233692.) Film 551280 is an index to these records. An abstract of some of these deeds is:

Cook, Michael L. *Kentucky Court of Appeals Deed Books*. 4 vols. Evansville, Ind.: Cook Publications, 1985. (FHL book 976.9 R2c; computer number 371100.) The abstracts are arranged alphabetically.

## Indexes to Land Grants and Surveys

Several important indexes are available for researching the land grants, military land warrants, state land office records, and court of appeals land records in Kentucky.

Brookes-Smith, Joan E. *Master Index: Virginia Surveys and Grants 1774–1791*. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Historical Society, 1976. (FHL book 976.9 R22b; film 1320833 item 6; computer number 49602.) This index is



alphabetical by name and shows the county, number of acres, dates of the survey and grant, volume and page number of the original documents, and Kentucky Historical Society volume number.

Jillson, Willard Rouse. *Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds: A Complete Index to All of the Earliest Land Entries, Military Warrants, Deeds and Wills of the Commonwealth of Kentucky*. 1926. Reprint, Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1978. (FHL book 976.9 R22j 1978; computer number 434380; film 1035625 item 3; computer number 218381; fiche 6051260; computer number 62459.) This is a name index that is alphabetical within the name of the county, military warrant, deed, or will.

Jillson, Willard Rouse. *The Kentucky Land Grants: A Systematic Index to All of the Land Grants Recorded in the State Land Office at Frankfort, Kentucky, 1782–1924*. Louisville, Ky.: Standard Printing, 1925. (FHL book 976.9 B4f no. 33; film 272808; computer number 204992; 1971 edition in FHL book 976.9 R22ji; computer number 126855.) This index is alphabetical by the location of the grant.

*Index for Old Kentucky Survey's and Grants; Index for Tellico Surveys and Grants*. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Historical Society, 1975. (FHL book 976.9 R2k; film 1402856; computer number 375649.) This index shows the name of the person receiving the land, survey number, county, acreage, survey and grant dates, volume and page numbers of original documents, and Kentucky Historical Society volume number.

Taylor, Philip Fall. *A Calendar of the Warrants for Land in Kentucky, Granted for Service in the French and Indian War*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1967. (FHL book 976.9 R2lt; fiche 6019959; computer number 221170.) These warrants are indexed and include the warrant date and number, name and rank of the veteran, acreage, and description of the property.

## County Records

Once a parcel of land was transferred from the government to private ownership it may have stayed in the family for generations or for only a few months. It may have been subdivided, sold, and resold, with each transaction creating new records. These person-to-person transactions are an important resource to the genealogist since the potential for an ancestor to be recorded is high.

These records may offer genealogical clues such as the given name of the wife, a previous residence, names of children, or death information. Land records also offer clues to maiden names if a father deeded property to his daughter upon her marriage. Witnesses and neighbors may also be in-laws or relatives. It is important to trace the purchase and sale (or the acquisition and disposition) of each parcel of land an ancestor owned.

The original records are filed in the county clerk's or recorder's offices. Be aware that as new counties were formed and boundaries changed, transactions were then recorded in the new county, while the parent county retained the records previously created. Most of the county deeds, town lot certificates, and other important land records from many counties are on microfilm at the Family History Library. Contact the county clerk or recorder for records that have not been microfilmed.

## Reference Tools

The Internet site for the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives has an explanation of how land was distributed in the state. Another resource for understanding the land and property records in Kentucky is:

Adkinson, Kandie. "The Kentucky Land Grant System," *Newsletter (Marshall County Genealogical Society: Kentucky)* 13, no. 4 (October 1998): 25–28. (FHL book 976.991 D25m vol. 13; computer number 436496.)

The "Land and Property" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) describes government land grants, grants from states, and major resources, many of which include Kentucky.

Other land and property resources can be located in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - LAND AND PROPERTY  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - LAND AND  
PROPERTY

## MAPS

Maps are used to locate the places where your ancestor lived. They identify political boundaries, names of places, geographical features, cemeteries, churches, and migration routes. Historical maps are especially useful for finding communities that no longer exist.

The Kentucky Department of Commerce in Frankfort has a large collection of maps and atlases for the state. The Kentucky Historical Society and the University of Kentucky in Lexington also have good collections. Some maps and atlases for Kentucky include the following:

*Kentucky: Atlas of Historical County Boundaries.* New York: Charles Schribner's Sons, 1995. (FHL book 976.9 E3k; computer number 783902.) This volume contains maps of each county of Kentucky that trace the boundary changes that occurred. It is part of a project of the Newberry Library to create historic county atlases for each of the 48 states of the continental United States.

Puetz, C. J. *Kentucky County Maps.* Lyndon Station, Wis.: County Maps, [1990?]. (FHL book Q 976.9 E7p; computer number 699678.) This book contains detailed maps of each county with towns, roads, points of interest, and major rivers and creeks.

Rone, Wendell H. *An Historical Atlas of Kentucky and Her Counties: Daviess County, 1815–1965.* Sesquicentennial ed. Owensboro, Ky.: Progress Printing, 1965. (FHL book 976.9 E7ro; computer number 220003.) This atlas contains maps showing changes in county boundaries and charts showing the county name origins, formation dates, acreage, and population by census year.

*Streams of Kentucky.* [N.p.]: Kentucky Department of Commerce, 1973. (FHL map 976.9 E7s; computer number 18225.) This map shows major and minor waterways of Kentucky, with county boundaries and county seats, and can be used to help determine migration routes and settlement patterns in the state.

The Family History Library has city ward maps of Louisville for 1861, 1868, 1873, and 1882. These help with searches of the 1860 to 1880 censuses.

*Ward Maps of United States Cities: Microfilm Reproduction of 232 Maps Described in Ward Maps of United States Cities.* Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, [1975?] (FHL film 1377700; fiche 6016667–70 [containing Louisville, Ky.]; computer number 181937.)

See the “Gazetteers” section of this outline and the “Gazetteers” and “Maps” sections of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more resources regarding places in Kentucky. Also check the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - MAPS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - MAPS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - MAPS  
KENTUCKY - GAZETTEERS  
KENTUCKY - HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY  
KENTUCKY - NAMES, GEOGRAPHICAL  
KENTUCKY - MIGRATION, INTERNAL

## MILITARY RECORDS

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Military records identify millions of individuals who served in the military or who were eligible for service. Evidence that an ancestor actually served may be found in family traditions, census records, naturalization records, biographies, cemetery records, and records of veterans' organizations. Military records can give birth, marriage, and death dates; spouses' and children's names; and places of residence throughout the life of the family.

Military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The Kentucky Military History Museum in Frankfort (which is part of the Kentucky Historical Society, listed in the “Societies” section of this outline) also has many military records. The “Military Records” section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) and the research outline *U.S. Military Records* (34118) provide more information about the federal records and search strategies. For Kentucky the following sources are also available.

### French and Indian War (1754–1763)

Taylor, Philip Fall. *A Calendar of the Warrants for Land in Kentucky, Granted for Service in the French and Indian War.* (See the “Land and Property” section of this outline.) This record contains an alphabetical list of soldiers, mostly from Virginia, who received warrants for bounty land in what is now Kentucky from about 1774 to 1789.

### Revolutionary War (1775–1783)

If a person supported the Revolution, he may be mentioned in records as a rebel, patriot, or Whig. Those who opposed the Revolution were Loyalists or Tories.

**Patriots.** Service and pension records and indexes for patriots are available on film at the National Archives and the Family History Library. See the research outline *U.S. Military Records* (34118) for these sources.



The Revolutionary War was fought before Kentucky became a state in 1792. Many veterans came to Kentucky and may be listed in:

Quisenberry, Anderson Chenault. *Revolutionary Soldiers in Kentucky: Containing a Roll of the Officers of Virginia Lines Who Received Land Bounties, a Roll of the Revolutionary Pensioners in Kentucky, a List of the Illinois Regiment Who Served Under George Rogers Clark in the Northwest Campaign, also a Roster of the Virginia Navy*. Baltimore, Md.: Southern Book, 1959. (FHL book 976.9 M2q; film 908017 item 5; fiche 6051503; computer number 220704.) These lists are arranged by county and alphabetically within each county by the name of the pensioner.

Virginia State Library. Department of Archives and History. *List of the Revolutionary Soldiers of Virginia: Special Report of the Department of Archives and History for 1911 and 1912*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1954. (FHL film 29893; computer number 399584.) The contents of this record are arranged in alphabetical order by surname.

**Loyalists.** For Loyalist records see the "Military Records" section of the *Canada Research Outline* (34545).

### War of 1812 (1812–1815)

Kentucky. Adjutant General. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky. Soldiers of the War of 1812*. 1891. Reprint, Greenville, S.C.: Southern Historical, 1992. (FHL book 976.9 M2ke; computer number 694539; film 1463598 item 2; computer number 431350.) This book lists by company all soldiers who served, giving their name, rank, enlistment and termination dates. An index is included with the book. See also:

*Index to Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky, Soldiers of the War of 1812*. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Historical Society, 1968. (FHL film 1463598; computer number 445718.)

### Mexican War (1846–1848)

Kentucky. Adjutant General. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky: Mexican War Veterans (1846–1847)*. Frankfort, Ky.: Historical Society, 1966. (FHL film 551064 item 3; computer number 333178.) These are arranged by company and regiment and then alphabetically by the name of the soldier. It includes his name and rank,

dates and length of service, the places he was mustered in and out of, and the dates this mustering took place.

### Civil War (1861–1865)

Soldiers from Kentucky served in both the Union and Confederate armies. The state adopted a policy of neutrality until September 1861, when a pro-Union element gained control of the legislature. Though Kentucky never seceded from the Union, there was a sizeable pro-Confederate element in the state. Indexes to the service records of Civil War Soldiers are at the Family History Library and the National Archives. The service records are available at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

### Union

Kentucky. Adjutant General. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky, 1861–1866*. 2 vols. 1866–1867. Reprint, Utica, Ky.: McDowell Publications, 1984. (FHL book 976.9 M2r; films 1463599–600; computer number 313451.) This book contains background information on the war, brief information about each unit, and a list of soldiers by unit, with their rank and service dates. An index is included in the book but not in the film. These records contain the reports for troops serving with the Union.

Kentucky. Adjutant-General's Office. *Report of the Adjutant General [1861–1865]*. Bethesda, Md.: University Publications of America, 1990. (FHL fiche 6082379–80, 6082382–84; computer number 768771.) This record contains reports and rosters of units from Kentucky, with the names of officers by unit. It also contains their residence and dates of commission.

Speed, Thomas. *The Union Regiments of Kentucky*. 1897. Reprint, Dayton, Ohio: Morningside House, [ca. 1984]. (FHL book 976.9 M2st; film 1321096 item 6; computer number 335101.) This record includes a brief history of each unit and lists the names of all soldiers. The index lists only the names of the commissioned officers from Kentucky.

United States. Record and Pension Office. *Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of Kentucky*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0397. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1962. (FHL films 1487066–90057; computer number 437572.) These service records are arranged by



company and regiment and then alphabetically by the name of the soldier. They include the soldier's name, age, rank, service record, muster, enlistment, discharge and disability information, payment cards, and physical description.

"The Civil War Archive-Union Regimental Index" [Internet site]. N.p., 1998 [cited 25 October 1999]. Available at [www.civilwararchive.com/unionky.htm](http://www.civilwararchive.com/unionky.htm). This site includes histories and background information on Kentucky regiments.

For the 1890 census of Union veterans of the Civil War, see the "Census" section of this outline.

## Confederates

Kentucky. Division of Archives and Records Management. *Index of Confederate Pension Applications. Commonwealth of Kentucky*. Frankfort, Ky.: Archives Branch, Division of Archives and Records Management, Dept. of Library and Archives, 1981. (FHL book 976.9 M2k; computer number 313653.) This index is arranged alphabetically and lists the applicant's name and county of residence at the time the application was made, the date the application was received in the Confederate pension office, and the application number. The listings for the widow's applications provide maiden names if stated on the application. The veteran husband's name is listed in parentheses.

Kentucky. Adjutant General. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky, Confederate Kentucky Volunteers, War 1861-1865*. 191-?. Reprint, Utica, Ky.: McDowell Publishing, 1980. (Vol. 1 on FHL fiche 6082403 [set of 13]; computer number 769299; Vol. 2 FHL book 976.9 M2rc; computer number 693813.) The book contains brief histories of confederate units and includes a list of soldiers, with their rank and dates of service. It is indexed. An index to the infantry soldiers in volume 1 is:

Cook, Michael L. Index to "Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky." Utica, Ky.: McDowell Publishing, 1979. (FHL book 976.9 M2rca index; computer number 627508.)

United States. Record and Pension Office. *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Kentucky*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0319. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1960. (FHL films

1447468-603; computer number 395864.) The compiled service records of Kentucky soldiers are arranged according to a complicated organizational breakdown, ending with either the regiment or independent battalion or company. Under each unit the service records are arranged alphabetically by soldiers' surnames.

"Kentucky in the Civil War-Confederate Files" in USGenWeb Project [Internet site], N.p., 7 September 1999 [cited 25 October 1999]. Available at [www.rootsweb.com/~kymil/cw/cw-conf.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~kymil/cw/cw-conf.html). This site contains rosters or histories of Confederate military units and includes links to pension records, veteran's records, biographies of prominent leaders, and military organizations.

## Unit Histories

An important inventory for finding Civil War military histories is:

*A Guide to the Microfiche Edition of Civil War Unit Histories: Regimental Histories and Personal Narratives*. Part 1, *Confederate States of America and Border States*. Bethesda, Md.: University Publications of America, 1992. (FHL book 973 M2cwu pt. 1; computer number 619021.) Kentucky units are listed on pages 33 to 38. The library has the large microfiche collection described in this guide. Use the library catalog to find individual items. This may include correspondence, diaries, memoirs, and regimental histories published before 1920. The guide shows the unit name, counties where it was raised, author, title, publication information, number of pages, and source repository. This guide includes an author index and a major engagements index.

## Spanish-American War (1898)

Kentucky. Adjutant General. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky: Kentucky Volunteers, War with Spain, 1898-1899*. 1908. Reprint, Frankfort, Ky.: Historical Society, 1966. (FHL film 551064 item 2; computer number 333177.) These unindexed records are arranged by company and regiment and then alphabetically by name. They include the soldier's name, rank, date and place of enrollment, and dates and places of mustering in and out.

*Volunteer Officers and Soldiers of the Spanish American War, 1898–1899*. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Historical Society, 1966. (FHL film 482881; computer number 367484.) These are arranged alphabetically by name within the company and regiment. The soldier's name, rank, and enlistment and muster dates and places are listed.

## World War I (1917–1918)

For a published roster of soldiers who died in the war, see:

Haulsee, W. M. *Soldiers of the Great War*. 3 vols. Washington, D.C.: Soldiers Record Pub. Association, 1920. (FHL book 973 M23s; fiche 6051244 [set of 18]; computer number 271442.) Kentucky soldiers are listed in volume 1, pages 375 to 408. It gives the soldier's name, residence, rank, and cause of death, and it includes pictures.

World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Kentucky, see:

United States. Selective Service System. *Kentucky, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509. Washington D.C.: National Archives, 1987–1988. (On 92 FHL films, beginning with 1643933; computer number 756745.)

To find an individual's draft card it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one draft board, and large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you use the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map, see:

United States. Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1989. (FHL film 1498803; computer number 702779.) Louisville is included in these maps.

Following World War I Kentucky attempted to keep three sets of records by county. They were:

- Scrapbooks.
- Records filled out by soldiers.
- Records from the government with service number.

These records are scattered, though a full set may be found in the Department of Libraries and Archives in Frankfort.

## Vietnam War (1963–1972)

*Register of Vietnam War Casualties from Kentucky*. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives, 1988. (FHL book 976.9 M28k; computer number 689664.) This book lists soldiers alphabetically and by county. It includes lists of soldiers who came from other states and those who were missing in action. The soldier's name, rank, birth date, residence, and casualty date are given.

## Other Military Records

For a published list of militia officers from 1792 to 1811, see:

Clift, Garrett Glenn. *The Corn Stalk Militia of Kentucky, 1792–1811: A Brief Statutory History of the Militia and Records of Commissions of Officers in the Organization from the Beginning of Statehood to the Commencement of the War of 1812*. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Historical Society, 1957. (FHL book 976.9 M25c; film 1035658 item 4; fiche 6051254; computer number 220700.) This book is indexed and includes an alphabetical list of soldiers by year, showing each soldier's name, regiment, and enlistment date.

For an index to Kentucky veterans from the War of 1812 to World War I, see:

Kentucky Historical Society (Frankfort, Kentucky). *Index to Veterans of American Wars from Kentucky*. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Historical Society, 1966. (FHL films 471728–74; computer number 233600.) This microfilm is arranged by war and then alphabetically by the name of the veteran. It references published rosters for the various wars.



For a comprehensive description of both federal and Kentucky state military records, see James C. Neagles's book *U. S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources, Colonial America to the Present*, mentioned in the *United States Research Outline* (30972). Pages 246 to 254 provide details of military records (many of which are not microfilmed) housed in various archives in Kentucky.

Additional military information and sources can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - MILITARY HISTORY  
KENTUCKY - MILITARY RECORDS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - MILITARY  
RECORDS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -  
MILITARY RECORDS

## MINORITIES

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Records and histories of minorities and ethnic groups may provide clues to immigrant origins, migration information, and previous residences. For the most part, research on minorities consists of consulting the same types of records as research for nonminorities. The purpose of this section is to identify a few of those special sources that influence research on minority families in Kentucky.

Some records, histories, and periodicals of Germans, Jews, African-Americans, Poles, Shakers, Huguenots and Walloons, and others are available at the Family History Library. For example:

Smith, Clifford Neal. *Early Nineteenth-Century German Settlers in Ohio (Mainly Cincinnati and Environs), Kentucky, and Other States*. McNeal, Ariz.: Westland Publications, 1984. (FHL book 973 W2smn no. 20; computer number 294277.) This book contains abstracts of obituaries, membership records, and articles from the monthly German magazine *Der Deutsche Pioniere* (The German Pioneer). It includes an index and lists the name of the settler, his or her place of residence and origin, and the reference volume and page number.

Haiman, Miecislaus. *Polish Pioneers of Virginia and Kentucky*. 1937. Reprint, [Ft. Wayne, Ind.: Allen County Public Library, 198-]. (FHL book 973 B4p v. 2; computer number 444745.) This book includes notes on the genealogies of Polish families, including the Sadowski family. It is unindexed.

Neal, Julia. *The Kentucky Shakers*. Lexington, Ky.: University of Kentucky Press, 1977 (FHL book 976.9 F2n; computer number 219524.) This history of the Shakers from 1805 to 1922 is unindexed.

*Original Papers Concerning the Huguenot and Walloon Lines*. Frankfort, Ky.: Historical Society, [196-?]. (FHL film 551317; computer number 332849.) About half of the early pioneers of Kentucky were descended from French-speaking Protestants, including the Huguenots from southern France and the Walloons from southern Belgium. These unindexed papers contain the history of these two groups of people.

## African-American

Resources for African-American research fall into two periods: pre- and post-Civil War. Post-Civil War research consists of consulting the same record types as non-African-Americans. Some sets of records such as school censuses and marriages and tax records are segregated by race. Pre-Civil War records consist of slave importation declarations, plantation records, emancipation records, apprenticeship bonds for freedmen, Kentucky hiring practices, census records, slave owner records, church and cemetery records, military records, vital records, and numerous Kentucky court records.

African-American vital records were usually recorded in separate books for many years. For a few years after the Civil War, many African-Americans had their marriages legally recognized and recorded in "declaration" books. Couples could go before the judge and declare that they were husband and wife and how long they had been together. The books are included in the marriage records in Kentucky counties.

For a history of African-Americans in Kentucky, see:

Lucas, Marion Brunson and George C. Wright. *A History of Blacks in Kentucky*. 2 vols. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Historical Society, 1992. (FHL book 976.9 F2L; computer number 706666.) This history of African-Americans from 1760 to 1980 contains an index and a bibliography of sources.

A source for African-American research in Kentucky can be found in:



Hogan, Roseann Reinemuth. *Kentucky Ancestry—A Guide to Genealogical and Historical Research*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 976.9 A3ho; computer number 690138.) This is a guide to African-American records located in Kentucky. Pages 140 to 153, "African-American Genealogy and Records in Kentucky," and Appendix 4, pages 369 to 372, "African-American Bibliography for Kentucky," provide important information for the African-American researcher.

Freedman's Savings and Trust Company signature cards or registers may list depositor's birth date and place, occupation, residences, death information, parents, children, spouses, siblings, or former masters. Kentucky had two branches of this bank at:

- Lexington, Kentucky 1870–1874
- Louisville, Kentucky 1865–1874

The signature registers for these branches are listed as:

Freedman's Savings and Trust Company (Washington, D.C.) *Registers of Signatures of Depositors in Branches of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, 1865–1874*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0816. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1969. (FHL films 928571–91; computer number 136687.) These films are alphabetical by state, then by city. In each city depositors are in order by account number. Films 928581–2 contain the records for Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky.

Slaves were gradually emancipated by Kentucky law, beginning in 1865. Slaves are sometimes mentioned in deeds (see the "Land and Property" section of this outline), wills (see the "Probate Records" section), tax records (see the "Taxation" section), and court order books (see the "Court Records" section). A few parish registers (see the "Church Records" section) list slaves who attended church with their masters.

See also the "Minorities" and "Emigration and Immigration" sections of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for additional resources.

Other records and histories of ethnic, racial, and religious groups in Kentucky are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - MINORITIES  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - MINORITIES  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -  
MINORITIES

Or see the Subject Search of the Family History Library Catalog under subjects such as:

AFRO-AMERICANS - KENTUCKY

## NATIVE RACES

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The most prominent early Indian tribes in Kentucky were the Cherokee, Chickasaws, and Shawnee. Most of these tribes were eliminated from Kentucky by about the early 1800s either through warfare or resettlement to other territories by the federal government. No separate records were kept for people with American Indian blood.

See the "Native Races" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for suggestions on how to research American Indian ancestry. If you are searching for American Indians in Kentucky, search the same types of records used to research non-Indians. You may want to see:

McConnell, Michael Norman. *A Country Between: The Upper Ohio Valley and Its Peoples, 1724–1774*. Lincoln, Nebr.: University of Nebraska Press, 1992. (FHL book 977.1 F3m; computer number 679468.) This book contains a comprehensive history of Indians in the upper Ohio Valley, which involved the states of Ohio, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania. In addition, this source contains biographies of prominent Kentucky Indians and a bibliography of sources.

For additional sources on specific tribes, use the Subject Search of the Family History Library Catalog under the name of the tribe. For example:

SHAWNEE INDIANS

Other sources are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - NATIVE RACES

## NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

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Naturalization is the process of granting citizenship privileges and responsibilities to foreign-born residents. Naturalization papers are an important source of information about an immigrant's place of origin and his or her foreign and Americanized names, residence, and date of arrival.

Immigrants to the United States have never been required to apply for citizenship. Of those who did apply, many did not complete the requirements for citizenship. Evidence that an immigrant completed citizenship requirements can be found in censuses, court minutes, homestead records, passports, voting registers, and military papers.

Various types of records were created during the naturalization process, including declarations of intention, petitions, and oaths of allegiance. Each record can give different details about the person, such as age, country of birth, ethnic background, date and port of arrival, ship name, previous residences, or current address. Even if an immigrant ancestor did not complete the process and become a citizen, he or she may have filed an application. These application records still exist and can be very helpful.

Records for earlier years usually contain less information than those after 1906, when the federal court system for naturalization was revised. Details such as birth date and place, physical description, and marital status may be given. See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for a more complete discussion of the naturalization process and the records created.

In the colonial era, residents of Kentucky declared their allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia by appearing before any court of record. A 1790 federal law allowed immigrants to follow a similar procedure at any United States circuit or district court, state supreme court, or other local court of record.

For a comprehensive list of Kentucky naturalization records, see:

Schaefer, Christina K. *Guide to Naturalization Records of the United States*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1997. (FHL book 973 P4s; computer number 798891.) Pages 143 to 146 cover Kentucky. For each county this book lists the courts where naturalizations took place, the years the records cover, where the original records are housed, and the Family History Library's first film numbers where applicable. The introduction discusses the naturalization process, the types of records created, and the usual genealogical content of each record.

Nineteenth-century Kentucky naturalizations are usually found in circuit or county court order books. If an ancestor lived in or near large cities or near a city where the United States courts convened, naturalization records may be found in the United States District Court. For the rural areas of Kentucky, naturalizations are more likely

recorded by the circuit court clerk in each county. They may be found in the circuit court order books, where they may be mixed in with other court proceedings. A few counties kept separate records for naturalizations. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the records of some Kentucky counties. Naturalization records can be found using the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] -  
NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

## NEWSPAPERS

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Newspapers publish notices of marriages, divorces, deaths, and funerals, and they publish obituaries. Notices include names of the persons involved and the date of the event, and they may contain maiden names and the names of parents and other living relatives.

Newspapers also publish *articles of local interest*, including religious and social events in the community, with the names of those involved. Some newspapers serve several communities and devote columns to the everyday happenings in the area. Newspapers also include legal notices, estate sales, and advertising for local businesses.

The University of Kentucky has the most extensive collection of Kentucky newspapers. Western Kentucky University and the Kentucky Historical Society also have large newspaper collections.

The Kentucky Room at the Central Library in Lexington, Kentucky, has newspapers on microfilm for Lexington and scattered issues of newspapers for a few other cities.

The Kenton County Public Library has all existing northern Kentucky newspapers, beginning in 1835, and they are indexed.

The Family History Library also has some Kentucky newspapers on microfilm, especially for the cities of Henderson, Louisville, Lexington, and Paducah. For example, see:

*Henderson Daily Gleaner*. 1892–1911. Reprint, Lexington, Ky.: University of Kentucky, 1959. (On 14 FHL films, beginning with 215412; computer number 422969.) Many issues are in fragmentary condition, and some years are missing.

Many marriage, death, and obituary notices have been extracted and published. For example, see:



Green, Karen Mauer. *The Kentucky Gazette . . . : Genealogical and Historical Abstracts*. 2 vols. Baltimore, Md.: Gateway Press, 1983-. (FHL book 976.9 B38g; computer number 231129.) Volume one covers 1787 to 1800. Volume 2 covers 1801 to 1820. It is indexed.

See the "Newspapers" and "Obituaries" sections of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for help in locating other newspapers published in Kentucky.

Many periodicals publish information from newspapers. These are referenced in the "Places" section of the *PERiodical Source Index* (PERSI), which is described in the "Periodicals" section of this outline. See also the "Obituaries" section of this outline for help in finding obituaries.

For more resources regarding local newspapers for Kentucky, use the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - NEWSPAPERS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - NEWSPAPERS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -  
NEWSPAPERS

## OBITUARIES

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Obituaries provide such information as the deceased's name; age; birth date and place, including foreign town and country of birth; and parents' names. They also contain the names and residences of living children, relatives, or other family members; maiden name; and occupation. Previously deceased family members are frequently mentioned. Obituaries have been published in Kentucky since the late-1700s. They may also indicate previous places of residence, immigration information, religion, and any social organizations or activities the deceased was involved in. For a publication on early Kentucky obituaries, see:

Clift, Garrett Glenn. *Kentucky Obituaries, 1787-1854*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Pub., 1977. (FHL book 976.9 V28c; fiche 6048872; computer number 521.) This includes obituaries from several newspapers reprinted in *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, volumes 39 to 40. It is indexed.

Eastern Kentucky University Library Special Collections and Archives has compiled an index to obituaries and death notices from Madison County newspapers, beginning with 1823.

The "Obituaries" and "Newspapers" sections of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) list sources for finding obituaries and the newspapers that published them.

Obituary files may be kept in local public libraries and by newspaper publishers. Some obituaries have also been published and indexed in genealogical periodicals that are available in the Family History Library. These are referenced in the "Places" section of the *PERiodical Source Index* (PERSI), which is described in the "Periodicals" section of this outline.

Obituaries and indexes from a few individual newspapers may be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - OBITUARIES  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - OBITUARIES  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - VITAL  
RECORDS

## OCCUPATIONS

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Larger companies sometimes preserved records about their employees over the years. These usually contain the hiring and termination details and may include biographical data about the employees and possibly their families. If the company where an ancestor worked is still in business, they may allow limited access to their historical employee records. Few employee records have been made public, so the individual companies should be contacted for their records.

County court order books and bond books may contain occupational bonds for lawyers, physicians, ministers, and those of other occupations.

Biographies or lists are sometimes compiled of members of specific occupations. Examples of occupational records for Kentucky include:

Hiatt, Noble W. *The Silversmiths of Kentucky: Together with Some Watchmakers and Jewelers, 1785-1850*. Louisville, Ky.: Standard Printing, 1954. (FHL book 976.9 U23h; computer number 221207.) In addition to biographies of the silversmiths and watchmakers of Kentucky, the silversmiths marks are also given.

*The Lawyers and Lawmakers of Kentucky*. 1897. Reprint, Greenville, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1982. (FHL book 976.9 D3L 1982; computer number 676894.) This book is indexed and contains several hundred biographies of Kentucky lawyers.



The Family History Library also has a volume of biographical sketches on a few early Kentucky physicians and a list of Kentucky postmasters from 1794 to 1819. See the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

## KENTUCKY - OCCUPATIONS

### PERIODICALS

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Most family history periodicals publish transcriptions of local sources used in genealogical research. Information published in periodicals may include family histories, genealogies, historical background of the locality, maps, information about local records and archives, queries, census indexes, transcripts of family Bibles, church records, court records, cemetery records, land records, obituaries, wills, and more. Often published by genealogical or historical societies, they typically focus on the records of a particular county or region, while a few may specialize in records of a particular ethnic group or religion. Among the periodicals for Kentucky at the Family History Library are:

*Bluegrass Roots*. 1973–. Published by the Kentucky Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 153, Frankfort, KY 40602. (FHL book 976.9 B2b; computer number 225119.) This periodical covers the entire state. A table of contents for back issues, beginning in 1976, is available on the web site of the Kentucky Genealogical Society. A cumulative index to the periodical is:

Harney, Brian D. *Cumulative Index to "Bluegrass Roots," 1973–1984*. 1st ed.. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Genealogical Society, 1985. (FHL book 976.9 B2b index; computer number 431069.)

*The Bulletin*. 1968–. Published by the West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, P.O. Box 1932, Owensboro, KY 42302. (FHL book 976.9 D25b; computer number 214133.) Information in this quarterly periodical focuses on 19 counties, from Union to Christian Counties on the west to Breckenridge and Allen Counties on the east.

*The East Kentuckian: A Journal of History and Genealogy*. 1965–. Harold, Ky.: Hall Printing, P.O. Box 24202, Lexington, KY 20524. (FHL book 976.9 B2e; computer number 209351.) Information in this periodical focuses on 40 counties lying east of a line, from Maysville to Monticello, Kentucky.

*The Filson Club History Quarterly*. 1927–. Published by the Filson Club Historical Society, 1310 South Third Street, Louisville, KY 40208. (FHL book 976.944 B2f; computer number 260836.) This journal publishes articles on the history of Kentucky. It also includes material on the Ohio Valley and the upper South as they relate to the state of Kentucky.

*Kentucky Ancestors*. 1965–. Published quarterly by the Kentucky Historical Society, 100 West Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601. (FHL book 976.9 B2ka; vols. 1–7 on films 924765–6; computer number 225107.) This periodical covers the entire state. It contains transcripts of court records, vital records, censuses, newspapers, journals, and research helps.

*The Kentucky Genealogist*. 1959–1986. Washington D.C.: Martha Porter Miller, 1959–1986. (FHL book 976.9 B2kg; computer number 140593.) This periodical covers the entire state and contains abstracts of Bible, cemetery, census, probate, court, church, and military records. Each volume is indexed. It ceased publication in 1986.

*Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy and Records: A Genealogical Journal Devoted to Kentucky*. 1979–. Published by the Society of Kentucky Pioneers, 11129 Pleasantville Rd., Utica, KY 42376. (FHL book 976.9 D25k; computer number 25242.) This quarterly includes a 1979 index and indexes in the last volume of each year. It contains research helps; book reviews; and abstracts of cemetery, Bible, tax, census, and other county records.

*The Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society*. 1902–. Published by the Kentucky Historical Society, 100 West Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601. (FHL book 976.9 B2k; on 28 FHL films, beginning with 169079; computer number 210850.) This periodical covers the entire state and includes a separate index for volumes 1 to 43. It contains articles on various aspects of Kentucky history and culture.

*Traces of South Central Kentucky*. 1982–. Published by the South Central Genealogical and Historical Society, P.O. Box 80, Glasgow, KY 12141. (FHL book 976.9 B2s; computer number 503199.) This is a continuation of *South Central Kentucky Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly*, which was published from 1974 to 1981 (computer

number 225100). This periodical presents genealogical and historical information from south central Kentucky counties centered by Barren County, Kentucky.

*Western Kentucky Journal*. 1994-. Newburgh, Ind.: B. J. Jerome, P.O. Box 325, Newburgh, IN 47629-0325. (FHL book 976.9 D25j; computer number 706376.) The periodical contains records from 17 counties bounded on the east by a line between Henderson and Christian Counties. A table of contents for back issues, beginning in 1976, is available on the *Western Kentucky Journal* web site at <http://pw1.netcom.com/~cpalmer/wkj/wkj3.htm>.

**Indexes.** Some of the periodicals listed above have annual indexes in the final issue for the year.

A comprehensive name index to a number of Kentucky genealogical journals is:

Trapp, Glenda K. *Kentucky Genealogical Index: An Every Name Index to "Kentucky Ancestors," "Kentucky Genealogist," "Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy & Record," and "The East Kentuckian," all Issues through 1980*. Evansville, Ind.: Cook Publications, 1985. (FHL book 976.9 D22kg; computer number 359864.) The library has volume 1 of this work.

For nationwide indexes to other family history periodicals, see the "Periodicals" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972.) For nationwide indexes to some of these and other family history periodicals, see:

*Periodical Source Index* (PERSI). 31+ vols. Ft. Wayne, Ind.: Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1986-. (FHL book 973D25per 1847-1985; fiche 6016863 [set of 40] [1847-1985]; computer number 444407; book 973 D25per [1986-1997]; fiche 6016864 [set of 15] [1986-1990]; computer number 658308.) This indexes over 1.1 million articles in over 5,000 English-language and French Canadian family history periodicals. For further instructions, see the *Periodical Source Index on Microfiche* (PERSI) (34119). For easier-to-use, more complete computer editions of the index, see:

*Periodical Source Index CD-ROM*. Orem, Utah: Ancestry, and the Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1997. (FHL compact disc no. 61; computer number 808087.) This disc does not circulate to Family History Centers. It merges all 31+ volumes into one index.

"Periodical Source Index Search." In Ancestry.com [Internet site]. [Orem, Utah]: Ancestry, 1999. Available at [www.ancestry.com/ancestry/search/3165.htm](http://www.ancestry.com/ancestry/search/3165.htm). This online database is available only to Ancestry.com members for a subscription fee.

For more family history periodicals, study the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - PERIODICALS  
KENTUCKY - GENEALOGY -  
PERIODICALS  
KENTUCKY - SOCIETIES - PERIODICALS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - PERIODICALS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY -  
PERIODICALS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - SOCIETIES -  
PERIODICALS

## PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records are court records created after an individual's death that relate to a court's decisions regarding the distribution of his or her estate to heirs or creditors and the care of the deceased's dependents. You may find the individual's death date; the names of family members, including married daughters; family relationships; and residences. You may also learn about the adoption or guardianship of minor children and dependents. These documents are important to family history researchers because they usually exist for time periods before civil birth and death records were kept.

Probate records of Kentucky are kept by the county clerk. Copies of probate records are also available at the Department of Libraries and Archives and the Kentucky Historical Society.

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of probate records from most counties. Probate records may include such documents as wills, letters of administration, guardianships, probate journals, probate packets, and adoptions. The probate packets, which contain all documents pertaining to a probate case, have the most genealogical information, but few are available at the Family History Library.

Two sources for Kentucky probate records are:



*Index to Kentucky Wills to 1851, the Testators*. Salt Lake City: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1979. (FHL book 976.9 P22i 1979; computer number 94408.) This index shows the testator's name, county, year of the will, volume, and page number.

King, Junie Estelle Stewart. *Abstract[s] of Early Kentucky Wills and Inventories*. 1933. Reprint, Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1961. (FHL book 976.9 S2k 1969; film 897212 item 5; fiche 6051356; computer number 221180.) This contains a surname index.

See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more information on probate records and their genealogical value.

Probate records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - PROBATE RECORDS

## **PUBLIC RECORDS**

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Many records created by city, county, and state governments do not fit into the record types used in this outline. Records of mayors, commissioners, overseers of the poor, schools, and a variety of others are examples of government sources that may give information about ancestors not contained in other records. Some collections that contain a variety of records such as land, history, tax, or court records may be classified as "public records." These records can be found on the state, county, and sometimes town/township level. Two examples are:

*Treasurers' Fee Books for Kentucky, 1785-1854*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1958. (FHL films 174940-2; computer number 415366.) This is a microfilm of a manuscript at Lexington, Kentucky. The fee books for several years are missing. There is a partial index at the beginning of each year listed. The record contains the following information: date of fee; name of person, with the county in parentheses following the name; the service for which the fee was rendered; and the amount of the fee.

University of Kentucky (Lexington). *Matriculate Registers, 1869-1889*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1958. (FHL film 175019; computer number 412559.) This is a microfilm of a manuscript at Lexington, Kentucky. The record is arranged by the year of matriculation and may show the person's name, graduating year, rank in class, age, parent's names, and city and state of residence.

To find various types of Kentucky public records, use the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - PUBLIC RECORDS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - PUBLIC RECORDS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - PUBLIC RECORDS  
KENTUCKY - SCHOOLS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - SCHOOLS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - SCHOOLS  
KENTUCKY - MEDICAL RECORDS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - MEDICAL RECORDS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - MEDICAL RECORDS

## **SOCIETIES**

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Kentucky has many societies that have been organized according to peoples' interests. Genealogical, historical, and lineage societies are especially helpful to genealogists because of the records and resources they collect, transcribe, and publish. Some societies now have Internet sites. Societies include:

*Lineage societies* (the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution [DAR], Colonial Dames, and Sons of the American Revolution, for example) require members to prove they are descended from a certain group of people such as colonists or soldiers. The applications for membership in these societies are usually preserved and occasionally published. National lineage societies such as the DAR have a large Kentucky membership. These are described in the "Societies" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972). The Kentucky DAR is located at:

The Kentucky Society, NSDAR  
Duncan Tavern Historic Center  
Paris, Kentucky 40361  
Internet:

[www.mindspring.com/~jogt/dar\\_ky.htm](http://www.mindspring.com/~jogt/dar_ky.htm)



**Genealogical and historical societies** often have indexes to local records and maintain a genealogical file for historical families of the area or for ancestors of society members. Most genealogical societies focus on local and regional records, while others concentrate on the records and migrations of ethnic groups or minorities.

Societies may guide you to useful sources, suggest avenues of research, put you in touch with other genealogists who are interested in the same families, or perform research for you. The resources of the society may help in determining immigrant origins. Genealogical and historical societies occasionally publish transcriptions of original records. Most publish quarterly periodicals, a few of which are listed in the "Periodicals" section of this outline.

Some genealogical and historical societies hold conferences in which lecturers discuss genealogical research methods, available sources, and other topics of interest to the genealogist. These lectures may include information on records or research helps on a local, regional, or national level. Transcripts, audiocassette tapes, or syllabuses of the class outlines of these conferences are often made available to the public through the sponsoring society.

Major societies in Kentucky include:

Kentucky Historical Society  
100 West Broadway  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Telephone: 1-502-564-1792  
Internet: [www.kyhhistory.org](http://www.kyhhistory.org)

The Kentucky Historical Society has the largest genealogical collection in Kentucky. Their holdings include information from all Southern States. The society's current holdings are available online at the Department of Libraries and Archives web site, mentioned in the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline.

Kentucky Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 153  
Frankfort, KY 40602

The Kentucky Genealogical Society promotes research of Kentucky families. They also publish items of genealogical interest, including the quarterly periodical *Bluegrass Roots*, mentioned in the "Periodicals" section of this outline.

A directory to historical organizations in Kentucky is:

*Directory of Kentucky Historical Organizations*. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Historical Society, 1992. (FHL book 976.9 H24 1992; computer number 703320.). The organizations are listed by subject and include the address, phone number, hours, collection, membership information, and publications of each organization. There is an index to organizations and counties.

**Family associations and surname societies** have been organized to gather ancestors or descendants of specific individuals or families. Some seek out information on persons with a specific surname. See the "Societies" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for a directory and more information about these societies.

**Clubs or occupational or fraternal organizations** may have existed in the area where your ancestor lived. Those societies may have kept records of members or applications that may be of genealogical or biographical value. Though many of the old records have been lost, some have been donated to local, regional, or state archives and libraries. The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) is an example of an organization an ancestor may have joined.

Filson Club Historical Society  
1310 South Third Street  
Louisville, KY 40208  
Telephone: 1-502-636-0471  
Fax: 1-502-635-5086  
Internet: [www.filsonclub.org/library.html](http://www.filsonclub.org/library.html)  
E-mail: [filibrary@filsonclub.org](mailto:filibrary@filsonclub.org)

The Filson Club is a source of many historical and genealogical records of Kentucky. It began as a private society to study Kentucky and Ohio history and culture. Their holdings include portraits, photographs, books, manuscripts, public records, family histories, and artifacts.

For Kentucky genealogical and historical societies that have records and services to help you with your research, see the "Archives and Libraries," "Church Records," and "Periodicals" sections of this outline. Many counties also have local historical and genealogical societies. You can find local society addresses by using directories cited in the "Societies" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972).

For Kentucky societies, see the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog:

KENTUCKY - SOCIETIES  
 KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - SOCIETIES  
 KENTUCKY, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - SOCIETIES  
 KENTUCKY - GENEALOGY - SOCIETIES  
 KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - SOCIETIES  
 KENTUCKY - HISTORY - SOCIETIES  
 KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - HISTORY - SOCIETIES

## TAXATION

Tax records vary in content. They may include the name and residence of the taxpayer, description of the real estate, name of original purchaser, description of personal property, number of males over 21, number of school children, slaves, and farm animals. They are usually arranged by date and locality, and they are not normally indexed. Tax records can be used in place of missing land and census records to locate a person's residence.

The first tax records of Kentucky were created in the 1780s while Kentucky was part of Virginia. For example, the 1787 "census" of Virginia contained an accounting of the name of every white male over 21 years (called "tithables"), the number of white males between 16 and 21 years, the number of slaves over 16 and slaves under 16 years, together with a listing of his horses, cattle and carriages, and also the names of all persons to whom ordinary licenses and physicians' licenses were issued.

Schreiner-Yantis, Netti and Florence Speakman Love. *The 1787 Census of Virginia*. 3 vols. Springfield, Va.: Genealogical Books in Print, 1987. (FHL book 975 R4sn; computer number 478967.) Kentucky residents are listed as being in Kentucky County.

Another good source for Kentucky tax lists before statehood is:

Fothergill, Augusta B. *Virginia Taxpayers, 1782-1787 Other Than Those Published by the United States Census Bureau*. 1940. Reprint, Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1974. (FHL book 975.5 R4f 1974; computer number 219063.) This includes Fayette and Lincoln Counties, Kentucky. It is alphabetical and contains the taxpayer's name, county, and number of slaves.

Another source for early tax records is:

*Early Kentucky Tax Records from The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1984. (FHL book 976.9 R4e; computer number 274360.) These tax lists contain the taxpayer's name and county, the number of acres, males over or under 16, slaves, horses and cattle, and the water course near the property. An index is included.

Poll taxes were paid by white males age 21 or over for the privilege of voting. Since this was an annual tax, the tax lists serve as censuses. Some were used to "reconstruct" the missing 1790 and 1800 federal censuses. They can help trace the migration of families from county to county between federal censuses. The Family History Library has copies of tax lists for most counties to the 1890s. Many of the original tax lists from 1782 to 1875 are at the Kentucky Historical Society. These are also available on 398 microfilms at the Kentucky Historical Society. An inventory of the films is:

*Kentucky Historical Society Index to Tax Lists*. Frankfort, Ky.: The Society, 1973. (FHL book 976.9 R4k; film 1036831 item 4; computer number 221174.) This index is arranged by county and includes the year of the tax list and the Kentucky Historical Society reel and page numbers.

A list of persons taxed during the Civil War is:

United States. Bureau of Internal Revenue. *Internal Revenue Assessment Lists for Kentucky, 1862-1866*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M0768. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1971. (FHL films 1491176-99; computer number 53838.) This extensive tax list shows monthly and annual taxes on personal property and licenses to practice and do business, income, and those who produced and distributed goods. Kentucky was divided into nine tax districts. Each film has a full list of counties and the districts they belonged to.

To locate Kentucky taxation records in the Family History Library, use a Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - TAXATION  
 KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - TAXATION



## VITAL RECORDS

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Civil governments have created records of births, marriages, and deaths. Records containing this information are commonly called "vital records" because they refer to critical events in a person's life. These are the most important documents for genealogical research, but the births, marriages, and deaths of many people have never been recorded by civil authorities.

### Birth and Death Records Prior to 1852

No births or deaths were recorded by civil authorities before 1852. You may find some information on pre-1852 births and deaths in genealogies, histories, church and Bible records, and collections of personal papers.

### Birth, Marriage, and Death Records, 1852–1910

Kentucky law required counties to record births, marriages, and deaths as early as 1852. Unfortunately, this law was repealed in 1862. Registration was again attempted from 1874 to 1879 and sporadically from 1892 to 1910. Although compliance with the early registration laws was inconsistent, the existing records are a good resource for genealogists.

The Department for Libraries and Archives has the records for 1852 to 1910. The Family History Library, Kentucky Historical Society, Filson Club, and other Kentucky repositories have copies of many of these records. Some of these have been extracted, and the names appear on the FamilySearch™ International Genealogical Index. Records at the Family History Library include:

*Kentucky Vital Records: 1852–1914.* Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Division of Archives and Records, 1975. (On 8 FHL films, beginning with 1533971; computer number 112314.) The records are arranged alphabetically by county.

*Kentucky Vital Records.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1958. (On 11 FHL films, beginning with 174932; computer number 392449.) This includes Kentucky Births 1784–1778, 1907–1910; Marriages 1874–1878, 1906–1914; Deaths 1774–1778, 1905–1910.

The Kentucky Historical Society has an incomplete index to the 1852 to 1862 records. For an index to deaths occurring during the 1850, 1860, and 1870 census years, see:

*Index, Kentucky Mortality Records, for the Year ending June, 1850, 1860, 1870.* [N.p.], 1949–1950. (FHL book 976.9 V23di; film 873777; computer number 221528.) These records are arranged by year and list the name of the deceased and the page number in the original records.

### Birth and Death Records, 1911–Present

Beginning 1 January 1911, Kentucky again required the registration of births and deaths. Registration was generally complied with by 1917. The Family History Library has birth and death indexes and death records covering this period:

Kentucky. Office of Vital Statistics. *Birth Index, 1911–1995.* [Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics], 1997. (On 1038 FHL fiche, beginning with 6118873; computer number 832015.) The index lists the child's name, birth date and county, and mother's maiden name.

Kentucky. Office of Vital Statistics. *Kentucky Death Index, 1911–1995.* [Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics], 1997. (On 188 FHL fiche, beginning with 6118879; computer number 832119.) The index contains the deceased's name, death date and place, age, and place of residence as well as the volume and certificate number.

Kentucky. Office of Vital Statistics. *Kentucky Death Certificates, 1911–1947.* Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics, 1993–1998. (On 357 FHL films, beginning with 1904664; computer number 769989.) The death certificates are arranged by year, by month, and then alphabetically by county. The certificate numbers are continuous for each year.

For copies of records kept since 1911, write to:

Cabinet For Health Services  
Office of Vital Statistics  
Department for Health Services  
275 East Main Street  
Frankfort, KY 40621-0001  
Telephone: 1-502-564-4212  
Fax: 1-502-227-0032  
Internet: <http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/vital.htm>

State your relationship to the individual and the reason you want the information.

Application forms and instructions for birth, death, and marriage certificates can be acquired from the Office of Vital Statistics' web page, listed above.



Kentucky death certificates are also on microfilm at the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives, beginning with 1911. Another resource for researching Kentucky birth and death indexes from 1911 to 1988 can be found at the Kentucky Room of the Lexington Central Public Library, the Louisville Free Public Library, the Kenton County Public Library, and many other libraries across Kentucky. See the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline for their addresses. The Kentucky Room contains 130 bound volumes of birth and death indexes for 1911 to 1969 that were created by the Office of Vital Statistics. Microfiche is available for 1911 to 1988 (only to 1986 for deaths). The births are indexed by name of the child and name of the mother.

You can also search indexes to selected Kentucky vital records through the University of Kentucky's web page:

"Kentucky Vital Records Index." In the University of Kentucky [Internet site] Lexington, Ky.: Univ. of Kentucky. [cited 25 October 1999]. Available at <http://ukcc.uky.edu/~vitalrec/>. This contains indexes to selected vital records including: Death Index for 1911–1986, Death Index for 1987–1992, Marriage Index for 1973–1993, and Divorce Index for 1973–1993.

## Birth and Death Records Kept by Cities before 1911

Before 1911, several major cities kept separate records of births and deaths. The most complete collection of pre-1911 city births is at the Office of Vital Statistics. It has records for the following cities. Records for Louisville and Newport are also at the Family History Library, and their computer numbers are listed.

City	Birth	Death	Computer Number
Louisville	1898–1911	1866–1911	419742
Lexington	1906–1911	1898–1911	
Covington	1896–1911	1880–1911	
Newport	1890–1911	1884–1911	755194
Bellevue		1896–1899	

The Department of Archives and Libraries and the Kentucky Historical Society have copies of some of these city records. The Lexington Public Library also has copies of the Lexington records. The Filson Club and the Family History Library have copies of the Louisville and Newport records.

Louisville (Kentucky). Registrar. *Births and Index, 1898–1910; Deaths and Index, 1866–1910*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1960. (On 23 FHL films, beginning with 209687; computer number 419742.) The birth indexes are on films 209687–8. The death indexes are on films 209694–9.

## Marriage Records

County marriage records are the earliest and most complete vital records for Kentucky. The records that have survived usually begin within a few years of each county's organization. Lincoln, Fayette, and Jefferson Counties have marriage records dating from the 1780s.

Marriage records from the earliest dates to the present are kept by the county clerk for each county. Since 1958, duplicates have been sent to the Office of Vital Statistics.

The most complete collection of early marriage record is in the Department of Libraries and Archives. Major archives such as the University of Kentucky Library have microfilm copies of marriage records for many Kentucky counties. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of most of the existing county marriage records from the beginning dates to about 1925. Many of these have been extracted and appear on the International Genealogical Index.

Many published marriage records that are available include:

Ardery, Julia Hoge Spencer. *Kentucky Records: Early Wills and Marriages Copied from Court House Records by Regents, Historians and the State Historian, Old Bible Records and Tombstone Inscriptions, Records from Barren, Bath, Bourbon, Clark, Daviess, Fayette, Harrison, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mason, Montgomery, Nelson, Nicholas, Ohio, Scott, and Shelby Counties*. 1926, 1932. Reprint, Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1969, 1972. (FHL book 976.9 D2a 1969; fiche 6049306; computer number 221195.) An index is included with this record.

Clift, Garrett Glenn. *Kentucky Marriages, 1797–1865*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Pub., 1966, 1940. (FHL book 976.9 V28cg; film 1320550 item 11[1966 edition]; computer number 221712.) This record includes marriage notices from Lexington newspapers reprinted in *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*.

*Kentucky Marriage Records, from The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Pub., 1983. (FHL book 976.9 V2km; computer number 289728.) An index is included with this record.

*Kentucky Marriages, Early to 1800: A Research Tool*. Bountiful, Utah: Precision Indexing, 1990. (FHL book 976.9 V28k; computer number 599844.) The names are arranged in alphabetical order.

*Marriage Records*. Orem, Utah: Automated Archives, 1994. (FHL compact disc no. 9 part 2; computer number 683379.) This does not circulate to Family History Centers. It contains marriage records for many Kentucky counties from the late 1700s to the early 1900s as well as marriage records from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Tennessee. Dates vary with the county. It is also indexed in *FamilyFinder Index and Viewer* (see the “Census” section of this outline).

*Kentucky, 1851–1900*. Liahona Research (Orem, Utah), 1998. (FHL compact disc no. 9 part 233 [on 4 discs]; computer number 827416.) This does not circulate to Family History Centers. These are images of the original records. It contains approximately 318,000 names. It is also indexed in *FamilyFinder Index and Viewer* (see the “Census” section of this outline).

Beginning in 1958, Kentucky again required statewide registration of marriages. These records have been indexed and are found at the Office of Vital Statistics. The Family History Library does not have copies of these records. They do, however, have an statewide index to marriages covering 1973 to 1995 in:

Kentucky. Office of Vital Statistics. *Marriage Indexes, 1973–1995*. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics, 1997. (FHL fiche 6118875–6 [set of 173]; computer number 824060.) This record has separate bride and groom indexes.

## Guide to Vital Records

You can learn more about Kentucky vital records in:

Duff, Jeffrey Michael. *A Guide to Kentucky Birth, Marriage and Death Records, 1852–1910*. Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives. Public Records Division, 1988. (FHL book 976.9 V23dj 1988; computer number 746484.) This book shows the birth, marriage, and death records available for each county and the years they were recorded.

See the “Vital Records” section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more detailed information on the value and content of vital records. For divorce records, see the “Divorce Records” section of this outline.

To find vital records, consult the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY - VITAL RECORDS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - VITAL  
RECORDS  
KENTUCKY, [COUNTY], [TOWN] -  
VITAL RECORDS

## VOTING REGISTERS

Voting registers were created to make it easier for election officials to run the various elections held in Kentucky. These registers were often arranged alphabetically by the names of citizens eligible to vote. The early voting registers listed just the head of house, while some of the later voting registers listed not only the name but also the voter’s address, naturalization information, and date and place of birth.

White males in Kentucky, age 21 and over, paid a poll tax for the privilege of voting. See the “Taxation” section of this outline for records.

Original poll (voter) lists may be found in the custody of county clerks. The Family History Library has few such lists for Kentucky. Those available will be listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

KENTUCKY, [COUNTY] - VOTING  
REGISTERS

## FOR FURTHER READING

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Several handbooks are available that give additional information about research, records, and record-finding aids in Kentucky. Among these are:

Hogan, Roseann Reinemuth. *Kentucky Ancestry: A Guide to Genealogical and Historical Research*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 976.9 A3ho; computer number 690138.) This source contains information on court, vital, land, and tax records and the early settlement of Kentucky. It lists the names and addresses of each county's archives or library, with their addresses, and a list of their microfilmed records.

Schweitzer, George K. *Kentucky Genealogical Research*. [N.p.], 1981. (FHL book 976.9 D27s; computer number 94902.) This book lists counties, record types, and addresses of county courthouses, libraries, societies.

Hathaway, Beverly W. *Inventory of County Records of Kentucky*. Salt Lake City: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1974. (FHL book 976.9 A3hba; computer number 14193.) These inventories are listed by county and then by the name of the library or archive. It indicates the types of records available and the years they cover.

Hathaway, Beverly W. *Kentucky Genealogical Research Sources*. [N.p.], 1974. (FHL book 976.9 A3hb; film 928177 item 5; fiche 6054104; computer number 219326.) This source contains a history of the state and maps showing the development of Kentucky and migration trails. It lists types of records and the years available, as well as the addresses of libraries and museums.

Additional sources are found in the "For Further Reading" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) and the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

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